





Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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CONTENTS

22 March 1995

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Chevron Stance on Oman Oil Deal Criticized [IZVERTIYA 24 Feb]	1
Arms-Carrying Plane Still in Azores [Bratislava Radio]	2

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 22 Mar [ITAR-TASS]	3
---	---

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Official Statements, Media Commentaries Preview Clinton Visit	4
Commentary: Clinton Makes 'Important Decision' [Moscow International]	4
Diplomat: No Preconditions for Trip [INTERFAX]	4
U.S. Said To Fear 'Alternative' to Yeltsin [IZVESTIYA 22 Mar]	4
Parade Has 'Nothing To Do' With Clinton Arrival [INTERFAX]	5
Foreign Ministry Hails Clinton Decision [INTERFAX]	5
Commentary Welcomes Clinton's Attendance [Moscow International]	6
Kozyrev, France's Juppe Express Concern Over Bosnia [ITAR-TASS]	6
Kozyrev Views Possibility of Treaty With NATO [ITAR-TASS]	7
Foreign Ministry's Karasin Briefs Press on Various Issues	7
Says Russia Adhering to Partnership With U.S. [ITAR-TASS]	7
Hails Documents on European Security Pact [ITAR-TASS]	8
Announces Kozyrev Visit to Budapest [ITAR-TASS]	8
Grachev Adviser Kulikov Advocates Disbanding NATO [Sofia 24 CHASA 17 Mar]	8
Kozyrev: Former Yugoslavia on 'Brink of War' [ITAR-TASS]	9
Bosnian Serbs Release Russian Military Observer [Radio Rossii]	10
Soskovets Assesses Results of Ukraine Visit	10
Terms Crimea Ukraine's 'Internal Problem' [ITAR-TASS]	10
Says Credits to Kiev 'Cannot Be Endless' [ITAR-TASS]	10
Announces Yeltsin To Visit Ukraine [ITAR-TASS]	10
Russia Watches Crimea Developments, Sends Consular Group [ITAR-TASS]	11
Grachev, Shevardnadze Hold 'Constructive' Talks [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 22 Mar]	11
Official Denies U.S. Claims on Rebuilding Iraqi Arsenal [INTERFAX]	12
Government To Send Peacekeepers to Angola [Radio Rossii]	12

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Discuss Economic Reforms, Chechnya [ITAR-TASS]	13
Yeltsin To Sign Federal Budget in 'Next Few Days' [INTERFAX]	13
Further on Yeltsin's Vacation Plans [INTERFAX]	13
Chernomyrdin Meeting With FITUR Chairman Reported [RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA 3 Mar]	14
Chernomyrdin Assures Moscow Mayor on Funding [ITAR-TASS]	15
Premier Addresses Agro-Industrial Conference [ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 21 Mar]	15
Text of Chernomyrdin Letter on Chechnya [ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 21 Mar]	18
Chernomyrdin To Head Council on Local Self-Government [ITAR-TASS]	19
Government Postpones Scheduled Session [ITAR-TASS]	19
Split Between Rutskoy, Lipitskiy Detailed [VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK 6 Mar]	19
Article Links Vedenkin to KGB [MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 1 Mar]	20
Better Legislation Urged To Curb Illegal Arms [VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK 6 Mar]	21

Media Issues

Director of Private Radio Station Killed by Gunshot [ITAR-TASS]	22
Russian TV Figures Receive Death Threats [INTERFAX]	22

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Official on Availability of Chemical Weapons in Russia [Paris TV]	22
Pacific Fleet Begins Exercises in Sea of Japan [ITAR-TASS]	23
Safety Concerns Persist Following Voronezh Missile Incident [IZVESTIYA 22 Mar]	23
Victory Day Celebratory Events Outlined [RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA 22 Mar]	23
Foreign Intelligence Service Prepares Report on NPT [ITAR-TASS]	24
Cosmonauts Safely Return to Earth [ITAR-TASS]	24
Military Space Forces Launch Kosmos-3M Satellite [ITAR-TASS]	24
Parameters for 'Kosmos-2310' Satellite Reported [ITAR-TASS]	24

Federal Assembly

Duma Summons Chernomyrdin Over Moscow's Stand on Ukraine [ITAR-TASS]	24
Duma's Preliminary Vote Approves Draft Statement on Crimea [ITAR-TASS]	25

Regional Affairs

Reportage, Commentary on Conflict in Chechnya	25
Dudayev Said Ready for Dialogue [INTERFAX]	25
Russians Increasing 'Onslaught' [Moscow TV]	26
Federal Troops Sealing Off Argun [ITAR-TASS]	26
Chechens Execute Russian Airman [ITAR-TASS]	26
Lobov Warns of Chechen Terrorism [INTERFAX]	26
Chechen Source Confirms Russian Successes [INTERFAX]	27
Federal Troops Destroy Ammunition Convoy [INTERFAX]	27
Dudayev Forces Await Assault on Shali [INTERFAX]	27
Russians Said To Take Village Near Shali [AFP]	27
Two Marines Killed in Attack on Argun [ITAR-TASS]	28
Russians Encircle Argun [ITAR-TASS]	28
Russians Deliver 'Crushing Blow' [AFP]	28
Federal Command Denies 'Big Losses' [INTERFAX]	28

Economic Issues

Economic Program for 1995-97 Previewed [ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 21 Mar]	28
---	----

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Minister Ends U.S. Visit To Secure Assistance [Kiev International]	30
Ministry Reports Clinton To Visit 10 May [INTELNEWS]	30
Presidential Aide Previews Kuchma Visit to Japan [INTERFAX]	30
President Kuchma Departs on Visit to Japan [Kiev TV]	30
Udoenko on Aims of Kuchma Visit [ITAR-TASS]	30
Japanese Chernobyl Aid To Be Announced [ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 Mar]	31
Kuchma Aims To Strengthen Economic Ties [ITAR-TASS]	31
Russian Defense Ministry Delegation Arrives in Kiev [ITAR-TASS]	31
Soskovets: Solutions Emerging to Black Sea Fleet Issue [ITAR-TASS]	31
'Little Chance' of Breakthrough in Black Sea Fleet Talks [INTERFAX]	32
Kiev 'Inclined' To Lease Sevastopol to Russia [ITAR-TASS]	32
Meshkov Asks Russia To 'Exert Pressure' on Kiev [ITAR-TASS]	32
Ministry on Crimean Parliament's Appeal to Russia [INTERFAX]	32
Tsekov Appeals to OSCE Over Situation With Ukraine [UNIAN]	32
Georgia Will Expand Economic Cooperation [UNIAN]	33

Armenian Parliament Speaker Discusses Cooperation	[HOLOS UKRAYINY 17 Mar]	33
---	-------------------------	----

National Affairs

Text of 17 Mar Law Abolishing Crimean Constitution	[VYBIR]	33
Supreme Council Resolution on Abolition of Crimean Laws	[VYBIR]	34
Decree on Implementing Resolutions Abolishing Crimean Laws	[VYBIR]	34
Crimea Instructed To Prepare New Constitution	[ITAR-TASS]	35
Parliament To Debate Motion of No Confidence in Cabinet	[UNIAR]	35
Crimean Delegation Arrives in Kiev	[UNIAN]	35
Kuchma Preparing Decree on Crimean Government Takeover	[UNIAN]	36
Supreme Council Rejects Harsher Measures in Crimea	[UNIAN]	36
Tsekov on International 'Forceful Intervention'	[INTERFAX]	36
Meshkov 'Will Resign' If Kiev Uses Force	[Moscow Radio]	36
Legislative Performance Evaluated	[MOST 13-19 Mar]	36
Public Meeting in Support of Reunification	[KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA 16 Mar]	38
Meshkov Edicts Repealing Economic Decrees	[KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA 14 Mar]	39
Meshkov Repeal of Economic Decrees Viewed	[KRYMSKAYA GAZETA 14 Mar]	40
Meshkov Edict on Corruption, Crime	[KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA 15 Mar]	41
Decrees Appoint Crimea Presidium Members	[KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA 15 Mar]	42
Crimean ASSR Law on State Organs Abrogated	[KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA 15 Mar]	43
Supreme Council Decrees Dismissing Deputies	[KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA 14 Mar]	43
Crimea Law on Revisions to Elections Law	[KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA 14 Mar]	46
Demidenko Conference on Bomb Blast	[KRYMSKAYA GAZETA 14 Mar]	47
Kuchma Agrarian Academy of Sciences Speech	[URYADOVYY KURYER 9 Feb]	48

Economic Issues

Contract With Libya on Railroad Construction	[UKRINFORM]	52
Imported Oil Products Cheaper Than Russian Crude	[UKRINFORM]	53
Decree on Gas Deliveries for Business, Public	[VYBIR]	53

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

U.S. Mission Arrives To Verify START Compliance	[BELAPAN]	55
Syanko Briefs NATO State Envoys on CFE Compliance	[Minsk Radio]	55
Economic Cooperation, Oil Production With Iran	[INTERFAX]	55
President's Speech to Parliament Detailed	[BELAPAN]	55

Moldova

Dniester Leader Warns OSCE on Provocations	[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 18 Mar]	56
Lucinschi: Russia Should Stay Away From Dniester Elections	[INFOTAG]	57
Russian 'Radicals' Allegedly Support Dniester Leaders	[INFOTAG]	58
Parliament Approves Gagauz Referendum Results	[INFOTAG]	58

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Delegation Signs Cooperation Documents in U.S.	[Almaty Radio]	59
Vice President: Need for Constitutional Reform	[INTERFAX]	59
Constitutional Court Official on Crisis	[KARAVAN 17 Mar]	59
Constitutional Court Ruling on Objections	[KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA 16 Mar]	61
Edict on Organized Gatherings, Marches	[KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA 18 Mar]	63
K. Suleymenov on Fight Against Crime	[KARAVAN 17 Mar]	64
Means To Extract, Transport Oil Explored	[KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA 16 Mar]	66

Uzbekistan

Karimov Book Examines Independence, Spiritual Values [INTERFAX]	67
Karimov's 'Dictatorial Regime' Denounced [Prague LIDOVE NOVINY 16 Mar]	68

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Russian Defense Minister Arrives From Georgia [Moscow TV]	69
New Karabakh Group Wants Legal State [ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN]	69
Candidate for Catholicos Makes Statement [NOYAN TAPAN]	69
Government To Allocate Subsidies to Consumers [NOYAN TAPAN]	69

Azerbaijan

Background to Baku 'Mutiny' Assessed [IZVESTIYA 21 Mar]	69
Motive for Azerbaijan Coup Considered [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 21 Mar]	70

Georgia

'Heated' Meeting Held With Russian Peace Commander [Tbilisi Radio]	71
Tbilisi-Based Abkhaz Government Sets Peace Conditions [INTERFAX]	71
Shevardnadze on Sentencing of Gamsakhurdia Followers [Tbilisi Radio]	71
Opposition MP Reports Shot Fired at Car [IPRINDA]	72
Article Profiles 'Clever' South Ossetian Leader [THE GEORGIAN TIMES 23 Feb-1 Mar]	72

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Government Resigns; President To Nominate Premier [Tallinn TV]	73
Tarand: Winners Failed To Cooperate [Tallinn TV]	73
Consolidation Party Seeks Coalition Alliance [Tallinn Radio]	73
'Right Wingers' Will Never Join With Center Party [BNS]	73
Vahi Admits 'Deadlock' in Forming Cabinet [ETA]	74
LDPR Representative Asked To Leave Country [Tallinn Radio]	74

Lithuania

Brazauskas Discusses Chechnya Problem [INTERFAX]	74
Clinton Accused of 'Justifying' Chechen Assault [BNS]	75
Parliament Rejects Aid to Chechnya Motion [ELTA]	75
Baltic Defense Chiefs Discuss Air Traffic Control [INTERFAX]	75

Chevron Stance on Oman Oil Deal Criticized

954F1817A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Feb 95
p 4

[Article by Sergey Leskov, IZVESTIYA: "Oman and Deception: Why Chevron Is Holding Up the Contract of the Century"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports from world agencies, this week the American Chevron company announced a sharp reduction of investments in the assimilation of the Tengiz oil field, the largest in Kazakhstan, to \$45 billion a year. Such a radical step deals a painful blow to the financial interests of Kazakhstan and Russia, which is vitally interested in having the gigantic oil pipeline to the Black Sea run through its territory.

Following Chevron's decision, oil production in 1995 will remain at the level of 2.5 million tonnes, although it was planned to produce 4.5-5 million. The decision from Chevron which, in the opinion of experts, has decided to focus on the assimilation of its fields in the North Sea, was not unexpected...

The tension surrounding the extremely rich oil field was generated by Chevron long ago. The main conflict developed around the shares of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium. Now they have been divided up as follows: Russia and Kazakhstan—25 percent each, Oman (such is the official name of the third participant and this is what the newspapers, including IZVESTIYA, call it)—50 percent. Chevron has repeatedly offered to buy shares. But it would not agree to anything less than a controlling block and with the same maniacal obstinacy tried to crowd out the small but proud Oman (we will call it that for now).

Chevron, as our staff correspondent in Almaty, Vladimir Ardayev, asserts, has recently been resorting to the tactic of gradual curtailment of its operations at Tengiz, apparently intending to put pressure on Russia and Kazakhstan in this way. But the brothers in the CIS will not betray their new friend from the distant sultanate. And, after all, breaking the agreement and failing to assimilate the planned capacities threatens Chevron with unrecoverable losses of so-called "royalties" and many millions in risk insurance.

All this time, none of the parties has been in any hurry to reveal the real reasons for the dissatisfaction and complaints of the American partner. Information that has fallen into the hands of IZVESTIYA sheds light on the back room circumstances of the struggle surrounding the oil fields of the former USSR. And it is linked primarily to the third or, rather, the leading participant in the KTK [Caspian Pipeline Consortium]—Oman, which not only owns half of the stock but is also obliged to pay for its financing.

Oil in the Bermuda Triangle

It has turned out that Oman is by no means a rich sultanate but a certain offshore Oman Oil Company

(OOC), which belongs to the Dutch businessman John Doys [name as transliterated]. This firm used to be called Dzhok [name as transliterated] Oil, but the name had to be changed since its reputation in international business circles had been sullied. John Doys earned millions delivering oil from Oman to the United Arab Emirates, bypassing the embargo on supplying the United Arab Emirates with strategic raw material which was in effect at the time. Extraordinary sanctions were applied against Doys and he had to sell all his oil refineries in the United States. Even now no significant American firm will enter into business relations with the OOC. Incidentally, the firm is based in the Bermuda islands which, it turns out, have since been stealing the oil resources of the former USSR.

John Doys has also worked on the Soviet market. In 1977 he concluded a number of contracts with the Soyuznefteeksport All-Union Association. The details of this scandal have already been forgotten, but at the time it was the major sensation in establishment circles. All the leaders of Soyuznefteeksport left their positions and many of them were expelled from the party. Criminal charges were filed against the Soyuznefteeksport worker who signed the contract with Doys. And all because of the childlike confidence in John Doys, who did some sneaky manipulation of letters of credit and did not pay for the delivery of 3 million tonnes of oil, 350,000 tonnes of fuel oil, an 500,000 tonnes of diesel fuel. The sum which Doys' firm did not return was \$101.8 million.

Ten years before 1990 the Soyuznefteeksport All-Union Association along with the Dzhok Oil firm was convicted in various arbitration courts, including abroad. The costs amounted to \$1.5 million, but they did not manage to obtain the full amount of compensation. In order to pull itself out of its financial hole, the board of the Ministry for Foreign Trade was forced to concede to the Finnoil firm the right to collect on the debt under the guarantee of large deliveries of petroleum products for three years. In a word, one would not wish the unpleasantness with Doys on one's worst enemy...

As a result of this incident, John Doys could not show his face in the USSR for a very long time. To Kazakhstan, which Doys chose as his next field of activities, he traveled in a roundabout way, through Turkey. When he did have to transit Moscow, he stayed within the bounds of the airport. There is rumor that Viktor Barannikov personally wanted very much to catch the Bermuda businessman. But the minister's time ran short...

But Then Perestroika Began Just in Time

By the beginning of 1990's John Doys' reputation reached the point where it had to affect his business. Doys had to close his company's London branch, which played a key role in oil operations. What helped him to stay afloat were revolutionary changes in the USSR, which opened its oil market to foreign capital. One of the first to arrive was our hero, who did not need to be taught how to do business with Soviet bureaucrats.

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During negotiations between the Government of Kazakhstan and Chevron on the subject of Tengiz, John Doys acted as an agent of the former. John Doys enjoyed the unlimited trust of Deputy Prime Minister Abdullayev and was appointed the government's chief consultant on oil issues. (And which Soviet republic did not have such consultants at the time?) The reverence shown to John Doys in Almaty did not go unnoticed in the world. British Gas, for instance, refused to invite Abdullayev to negotiations in London. EBRD [European Bank for Reconstruction and Development] Executive Director Freeman expressed the opinion that John Doys' appointment attested to incompetence of the Government of Kazakhstan in the area of oil production and refining. The same opinion could be heard in U.S. business circles.

According to unconfirmed information, the hospitality of the Bermuda offshore Oman Oil Company (which had no connection with Oman except the name—a ruse simpletons fell for) had been extended to high-ranking Kazakhstan Government officials who had a direct bearing on the Tengiz decision: Deputy Prime Minister Abdullayev, Minister of Fuel and Power Generation Baykenov, his deputy Bekbosynov, Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Abishev, and finally, Prime Minister Tereshchenko.

Connection to John Doys did not go unpunished, however. In 1993-1994 all these bureaucrats lost their jobs. Currently Abdullayev, for instance, works in Almaty at the Economic Achievements Fair. According to unofficial information, John Doys himself contributed to their fall from grace, having put the bureaucrats on the spot and then failing to pay them the verbally agreed commission for the Chevron deal.

But it was vital for Doys to regain access to the Russian corridors of power. And he probably did succeed in some way. The KTK idea was supported by the prime minister, the minister of fuel and power generation, and AO [joint-stock company] Transneft President Chernyayev. While Moscow was actively talking Almaty out of letting John Doys participate in the Tengiz deal, with respect to the Caspian pipeline it no longer had any objections.

Bury Your Money...

But it is precisely the KTK that is the juiciest morsel of all. This grandiose project envisages pumping up to 70 million tonnes of oil through this new pipeline. The transfer fee for oil transportation is expected to be set at \$12 per tonne. This means that the consortium will earn about \$700 million a year. Let us recall that 50 percent of the profit belongs to the Bermuda firm Oman Oil Company...

But before one gets the profit, one has to find investors; one has to convince the banks to provide money. To accomplish this, one needs a reputation, one needs an untarnished name. Judging by all the signs, Chevron does not believe that the OOC, with which nobody in the West will do even minimally serious business, will be able to put together financing for this grandiose project. Why then waste the time and money?

The concern seems to be justified: Over three years the OOC has not been able to find sources of financing for the Caspian pipeline construction. It could not even find the relatively small amount of money needed to develop the Dunga oil field in Kazakhstan, which was transferred to John Doys as compensation for many years of work as a middleman in the Tengiz deal.

A year ago, Russia too once again "got burned" on the OOC. To support construction of an oil pipeline through Turkey and Iran, about 1 million tonnes of Russian oil had been exported for OOC use. There is no information, however, regarding any progress in the project.

Arms-Carrying Plane Still in Azores

*LD2103211395 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica
Slovensko Network in Slovak 2030 GMT 21 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ukrainian An-124 cargo plane which was held up by Portuguese authorities last week because of suspicion of secret transportation of arms from Slovakia to South America is still in the Azores, because some states have not allowed it to fly over their territories.

Frantisek Blanak, chairman of the Slovak government licensing commission for weapons export, confirmed for CTK that the plane was transporting Slovak weapons to Ecuador. According to him, the export of the weapons was legal and there was nothing wrong with this.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 22 Mar
LD2203081595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0532
GMT 22 Mar 95

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 22 TASS - In an interview with the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA newspaper, Viktor Ilyukhin, chairman of the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house) Security Committee, deals with the topic of how "crime grabs power".

According to his information, 20 per cent of produced oil and 34 per cent of fertilizers are illegally exported from the country. Up to 20 billion U.S. dollars of Russian origin annually remain in the west.

According to the IZVESTIYA newspaper, the State Customs Committee and the Central Bank are drafting materials for a cabinet meeting concerning the outflow of hard currency abroad. According to the daily's calculations, every eighth dollar or 12 per cent of Russian export revenues remained abroad in 1994.

Ilyukhin said in the above interview with ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA that "criminal or foreign structures are laying hands or have already laid hands" on 60 per cent of capital and 85 per cent of voting shares in Russia.

"The government needs money, therefore, it is ready to sell everything as soon as possible," notes the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper, explaining reasons for "rush rates of privatization" in 1995.

In the newspaper's opinion, the state voluntarily gives up, for the sake of getting doubtful current advantages, its most effective assets which, even if used not very ably, create a possibility for restructural manoeuvre in our economy".

According to ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, inflation in Russia rose by 1.7 per cent over the past week. Inflation rates decelerated since the start of the year. According to the newspaper's forecast, it will rise by nine per cent in march.

The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and TRUD newspapers report in detail a visit by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev to Georgia, outlining provisions of treaties concluded during negotiations.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA singles out prospects for the development of the Georgian state among topics of the negotiations. Russia sees Georgia as a federative state, the newspaper quotes Grachev as saying.

The question of separation of any of its part "has not been raised and must not be raised", the minister spelled out the viewpoint of the Russian leadership.

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper writes about chemical mutagenesis on territories afflicted by the Chernobyl disaster. The newspaper describes people born with two heads, with open bellies, without extremities as well as plants and animals with signs of mutation.

In the opinion of specialists, Chernobyl mutants will scare the world for another 800 years.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA deals with prospects for building a submarine entombment for the Komsomolets submarine which sank in the sea of Norway in April 1989. The project has been designed for the first time in the world.

Writing in the ARGUMENTY I FAKTY weekly, Anatoliy Pristavkin, chairman of the pardoning commission at the Russian president, opposes death penalty "which is not a punishment but a state murder".

According to Pristavkin's estimate, the number of supporters and opponents of death penalty in Russia is approximately the same. The commission chairman notes that "fully degraded people" are sentenced to death penalty in 95 per cent of cases. There was not a single crime family boss or a hired hitman among them during the time of the commission's operation.

Anatoliy Lukyanov, speaker of the former Soviet Union's parliament, deals with questions of recent history in the PRAVDA newspaper. He tries to reply to the question of how it happened that "a great world power plunged into chaos of destruction all of a sudden".

Official Statements, Media Commentaries Preview Clinton Visit**Commentary: Clinton Makes 'Important Decision'***LD2103142695 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in English 1210 GMT 21 Mar 95*

[Commentary by Yuriy Solton—announcer-read]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Washington it's been officially announced that President Bill Clinton is to arrive in Moscow on 9 May to take part in the festivities to mark 50 years since the victory over Nazi Germany in the Second World War. Commentary is by Yuriy Solton.

Well, this has written an end to all speculations and rumors around the forthcoming visit of the President to Russia. Bill Clinton, together with the leaders of other countries, will be on Red Square in Moscow on 9 May to watch a parade of war veterans. As expected, no military equipment will be on display.

The head of the Washington administration has taken an important decision. His forthcoming arrival is first of all a tribute of respect to an ally in the anti-Hitler coalition and a recognition of the great contribution of the people of Russia and other former Soviet republics to the defeat of Nazi Germany. It's also a confirmation of the course towards strengthening Russian-American partnership, a kind of support to President Boris Yeltsin and his policy of democratic and market reforms.

The Russian-American summit in Moscow will not be restricted to attending memorial ceremonies. The two presidents will hold businesslike talks and these talks will not last long but they will be important. The two presidents will discuss bilateral relations, primarily economic relations, and the situation in Chechnya, what has been done to materialize agreements on nuclear disarmament, and matters pertaining to international security, (primarily) a peace settlement of regional conflicts.

At the recent meeting with Russian Foreign Ministry officials, President Yeltsin said that there were no problems in Russian-American relations. This doesn't mean, however, that there are no differences between the two countries. For example, the views of the two Presidents differ on the issue of NATO's expansion to the east. They both are concerned about the obstacles on the way to the ratification of a treaty to reduce strategic nuclear forces of the two countries by a third. The question may arise again on Russia's cooperation with Iran on the peaceful use of nuclear power, since the United States feels sore on the point. The presidents can discuss other disputable issues too.

What matters most is that the leaders of the two countries are dedicated to the idea of Russian-American partnership. They are searching for new ways and approaches to the solution of bilateral matters, bearing in mind national interests, the interests of peace. Relevant instructions have been given to Russian Foreign

Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his American counterpart Warren Christopher, who are to discuss the program of the forthcoming summit on Wednesday 22 March.

Diplomat: No Preconditions for Trip*LD2103143395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1339 GMT 21 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 21 (Interfax)—The U.S. did not advance any "preliminary terms" for President Bill Clinton's arrival in Moscow on May 9 for the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the victory over fascism, a high-ranking Russian diplomat told Interfax Tuesday.

This statement negated reports circulated by western media that Clinton had allegedly agreed to come to Moscow on the condition that he will not attend the military parade.

The diplomat said that "this question was not raised at all in the correspondence on President Clinton's possible arrival in Moscow between Washington and Moscow after the Russian-American summit in September 1994."

Moreover, such details could not have been discussed for the simple reason that there is no final program for the events scheduled for May 9, he continued.

He also pointed out that besides Clinton, many other heads of state and government had been invited to Moscow.

Meanwhile, a representative of the U.S. embassy in Moscow told Interfax Tuesday that he did not know anything about the advancement of any preliminary terms for Clinton's arrival in Moscow on May 9 by the American side.

He said that the program of Clinton's visit had not yet been finalized.

He also said that White House representatives were to arrive in Moscow shortly to coordinate the program.

U.S. Said To Fear 'Alternative' to Yeltsin*MM2103172895 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Mar 95 p 1*

[Report by Vladimir Mikheyev: "U.S. President Will Climb Memorial Hill 9 May"]

[FBIS Translated Text] One month ago a visit by Bill Clinton to Moscow to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Victory looked so problematic that some commentators wondered whether it was worth B. Yeltsin's while to send out an invitation, thereby bringing on himself an undoubted refusal.

There were more than sufficient grounds to fear a polite refusal. These included the annoyance which Chechnya has provoked in Washington and the polemic around

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NATO's plans to expand its ranks through the incorporation of East European states, which has clouded bilateral relations. Finally, there was the fact that in the diplomatic calendar, some time in the first half of the year—and not specifically 9 May—was originally allotted to the planned summit.

Hence the statement by Press Secretary Michael McCurry that the U.S. President would be adding himself to the list of esteemed guests and favoring Yeltsin with a high-level meeting came like a breath of spring breeze to thaw the frosts.

The BBC had a stab at trying to interpret the train of thought of those who have seen this as a symbol of the West's untarnished sympathies for our reformist efforts and of the personal sympathies linking the two presidents: "If Clinton appears in Moscow, everyone will draw the conclusion that Russia is to be recognized as a superpower, and that the operation in Chechnya has been forgiven and almost forgotten."

London, where Clinton had been invited by John Major to celebrate the victory of 8 May, finds itself unexpectedly overlooked. Nevertheless, Clinton's agreement to climb Memorial Hill cannot be explained in the way that AP observer Donald Rotberg chooses to explain it—as "giving preference to new friends over old friends"—although it is difficult to object to the definition of this gesture as a "clear concession." Let us add: an inevitable concession at that.

Indeed, the cooling in the U.S. Administration toward Russia which has been predicted in recent months, supposed to be occasioned by the introduction of elements of a strong-state mentality in Moscow's policy and the prevalence of Republicans in the Congress, has not happened. Let us add, has not happened yet. By visiting Moscow Clinton is, apart from anything else, signaling to his opponents at home that foreign policy is his preserve, an area where he is free to determine priorities, among which Russia continues to occupy a leading place.

The slanging match between the two presidents through their surrogates at the Budapest forum over NATO's advancement of its borders in an easterly direction has convinced Western leaders once and for all that—even without a changing of the guard in the Kremlin—they could lose the goodwill that remains toward them in Moscow, and also toward the still only potential sponsors of market reforms in Russia.

The fear that an alternative to Yeltsin and his team would revive the nightmare of the nuclear mushroom cloud—a fear on which the diplomats on Smolensk Square are skillfully playing—has predetermined a desire, in the popular expression, to "keep the channels of communication open." Not to break off a dialogue which in itself provides an opportunity to influence the winds of change prevailing in Moscow's lobbies.]

The summit agenda will include thorny topics: the federal authorities' actions in Chechnya, the sale of

Russian nuclear reactors to Iran, differences in assessments of events in Bosnia and over the situation in Iraq, and once again NATO's eastward expansion.

Clinton will spend three days in the capital, making time to stop over in Kiev for a discussion with President Leonid Kuchma.

Parade Has 'Nothing To Do' With Clinton Arrival

LD2103174095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Mar 21 (Interfax)—The holding of the victory parade on Poklonnaya Hill "has nothing to do with the arrival of U.S. President Bill Clinton and other foreign guests, because the decision to hold it there had been made long before they made up their minds to come."

This is the essence of what Deputy Prime Minister Yuriy Yarov told Interfax Tuesday. He emphasized that the final word had been with the veteran organizations and the Russian Defense Ministry.

Yarov said that both the veterans and the Ministry had wanted the parade to be held on Red Square but because of construction work, vehicles could not pass through there and a decision had been made to have only a column of nearly 5,000 war veterans from Russia and other CIS member states, a regiment representing the services of Russian Armed Forces and students of the Nakhimov and Suvorov navy and army children's military school with a military band march in the square.

The military parade on Poklonnaya Hill where the participants of the march on Red Square will arrive in buses will, Yarov believes, become a kind of symbol of opening a memorial for those who died in the war and for what those war heroes, who are luckily alive now, did.

Asked by Interfax where Clinton would attend the festivities, on Red Square or Poklonnaya Hill, Yarov said he did not know but he was confident that as a man who did his own thinking and decision-making Clinton would attend both events.

Yarov also said that veteran organizations had suggested to the Organizing Committee of the celebration that the parade should be commanded by General of the Army Vladimir Govorov and received by Marshal Viktor Kulikov. This suggestion, Yarov said, will be submitted to the country's president, following which a final decision will be made.

Foreign Ministry Hails Clinton Decision

LD2103174395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Mar 21 (Interfax)—The Russian Foreign Ministry's official spokesman,

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Grigoriy Karasin, has hailed the decision by U.S. President Bill Clinton to visit Russia during the celebrations on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the victory over fascism.

Addressing a Tuesday briefing in Moscow, he said that this step "will affect positively both bilateral relations and the discussion of major international problems".

Speaking about the meeting between the Russian and U.S. Presidents, Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton, in Moscow on May 11, Karasin said that "its agenda is not worked out yet".

At the same time he said that the agenda of the forthcoming Russian-U.S. summit "is quite predictable" and "there will be no difficulties or delays concerning its preparation".

Commentary Welcomes Clinton's Attendance

LD2103203195 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in English 1810 GMT 21 May 95

[Commentary by Vladislav Kozyakov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Bill Clinton will attend the 9 May celebrations in Moscow to mark the 50th anniversary of the Allied victory over Nazism in World War Two. In several days Bill Clinton will be speaking with Boris Yeltsin. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will be meeting with United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Geneva Wednesday and Thursday to finalize the details of the forthcoming summit. These comments from our political analyst Vladislav Kozyakov:

President Bill Clinton accepted the Russian president's invitation and will attend the VE celebrations in Moscow and this is a good sign, because it demonstrates the Americans' respect for the Russian people's outstanding contribution to the victory over their common enemy during World War Two. It also reflects the close relationship between the two democratic states, Russia and the United States.

The decision to come to Moscow on the Victory Day was not easy for President Clinton. This is evident from the statements made by some of Washington's most influential politicians who tried to talk the president out of going to Moscow, citing the war in Chechnya and the recent United States-Russian divisions.

Some United States legislators have also been sending letters to the White House asking the president to call off his visit to Russia. According to them, the United States should give Moscow a rebuke and not a reward.

The present controversy in the United States political circles is further evidence of how responsible a time Moscow and Washington are going through. It's not difficult to imagine the harmful effect that the tough stand on Russia, insisted upon by some Republican leaders, might produce. The agenda of the forthcoming

Moscow summit is supposed, as usual, to include issues that are of great importance to nuclear disarmament and international stability.

And so Russian and United States experts are busy these days checking up the implementation of the START-1 treaty in both countries. While START-2 is yet to be ratified, specialists are already working on START-3.

As a Russian-American space crew is now orbiting the Earth, here on the ground new agreements are beginning to emerge for the sake of strengthening security. In the same way differences over such major issues as, for example, the role of NATO in the European security system, or the supply of Russian nuclear reactors to Iran, can be successfully resolved through dialogue and taking into account each other's interests and looking for a compromise in the process. This will no doubt promote friendship and understanding between the two countries.

Ceremonies in Moscow marking the 50th anniversary of the end of World War Two to be attended by high-ranking guests from around the world, can give a new impetus to the search for universal peace and harmony.

Kozyrev, France's Juppe Express Concern Over Bosnia

LD2103141295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1359 GMT 21 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov, Nikita Yermakov, and Mikhail Kalmykov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris March 21 TASS—Russian and French Foreign Ministers Andrey Kozyrev and Alain Juppe discussed "architecture of European security" at a 45-minute meeting at the French Foreign Office this Tuesday.

The sides exchanged opinions concerning the results of the recent meeting between EU foreign ministers in Carcassonne. EU ministers suggested at the meeting that the North Atlantic Alliance should conclude a security treaty with Russia as soon as possible.

The European Community believes that such a treaty can calm down the Russian side expressing anxiety over a prospect for NATO expansion.

Paris and Moscow also expressed concern over developments in Bosnia, Juppe said after his meeting with the Russian counterpart. In Juppe's opinion, things steer "to resumption of hostilities" in Bosnia.

The talks between the sides reached a deadend. Armed clashes resumed in northern Bosnia, although the ceasefire agreement is to be in force till the end of April.

The Russian and French ministers expressed a desire at the meeting that the international contact group should act more resolutely.

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According to Juppe, efforts should centre on two directions: To conclude an agreement on the stay of "blue helmets" in Croatia and to prevent an early resumption of hostilities in Bosnia.

Kozyrev participated in the Europe stability conference which was held in Paris.

Kozyrev Views Possibility of Treaty With NATO
LD2103224395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2114 GMT 21 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov, Nikita Yermakov, and Mikhail Kalmykov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 21 Mar—We look favorably on the fact that our partners are acquiring an understanding of the necessity to find a serious answer to our concern, Andrey Kozyrev stated. This is how the Russian foreign minister answered on Tuesday the ITAR-TASS correspondent's question about his assessment of the European Union [EU] countries' initiative submitted at the meeting in Carcassonne last weekend and relates to the conclusion of a treaty between Russia and NATO.

"As to the essence of the initiative, we do not know it for the time being," he continued. "We hear only general descriptions and general ideas. The point is that together with Russia an answer needs to be found which would satisfy Russian interests. It may be in the form of a treaty or another document, a declaration. Of course, this gives rise to a positive reaction on our part. Why? At long last our partners have started to take our interests into account."

One is under the impression, the minister said, that our partners have been discussing just a general idea rather than specific matters. According to him, Russia "would like to see no more ready-made recipes brought to us." "The EU and NATO are cooking a dish with great difficulty. It may be good but there is no Russian cook in the kitchen," Kozyrev continued. "And in the end we get the set menu—take it or leave it. We do not want either to accept what we are offered or to turn it down because there is then no cooperation. We would like to see our interests taken into account from the start in preparing and developing the idea. Then it will be a truly joint undertaking."

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe says that the EU is an association which wants to speak with a single voice, Kozyrev said. We have no objection to this. "We are against the EU working out the final position and only then putting it forward to us," he said. "We are in favor of thinking and working out our position together. Then the final decision will take into account an exchange of views and will include prior consideration of everyone's interests."

Kozyrev thinks that the same applies to NATO. "We are told that NATO will not be hostile and will take Russian

interests into account," he said. "But how? We would like to have a consultative mechanism which would give us an opportunity to compare points of view so that each side tackles the issues knowing what the other thinks." NATO then takes its final decision, which is acceptable to us, and Russia takes its own decision, which is also acceptable to its partner.

What we want from NATO is progress in four main areas of the development of partnership, Andrey Kozyrev said, replying to a question by the ITAR-TASS correspondent.

The first point is to work out a blueprint for all-embracing security in which NATO must find its own place. "The expansion of NATO's composition in the near future is not at all to our liking," Russia's foreign minister noted. He said that initially there should be a "concept of all-embracing security which NATO fits into, not the other way round, which is that all blueprints must fit in with NATO's interests."

Second, we want the creation of a mechanism of political consultations and the working out of joint decisions, the minister stressed. "We do not lay claim to the right of veto of NATO's decisions," he noted. "But neither are we ready for NATO to impose a veto on our decisions."

Third, the military area. Kozyrev noted that NATO and Russian military should cooperate as much as possible, which is, by the way, something that our country's military wants. Military cooperation will set into motion huge machines on the part of both Russia and NATO. As the period of military rapprochement is lengthy, guarantees are needed for this period so that nothing occurs that could worry the other side. This is probably closer to maintaining the status quo: No one advances; especially, NATO does not advance eastward.

Fourth, military-technical cooperation, interaction in the creation of armaments systems, and competition in armaments markets. A. Kozyrev, pointed out that, despite the maintenance of competition, the prerequisites exist for Russo-NATO cooperation "in the creation of new weapons systems." "Their doctrines and our doctrines are changing, and they are doing so in one area: Everyone is talking about mobile forces, capable of reacting to local crises," he recalled.

"We want there to be cooperation in these four areas at the very least," the minister concluded. "Then we will have the feeling that NATO is not a hostile force from ideological, political, and military-technical positions, but a perfectly friendly force with which we can cooperate." In his view, NATO has to make difficult decisions.

Foreign Ministry's Karasin Briefs Press on Various Issues

Says Russia Adhering to Partnership With U.S.
LD2103232495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1436 GMT 21 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Valeriy Sevryukov and Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 21 Mar—The Russian and U.S. foreign policy chiefs will continue their conversation on topical issues of bilateral relations in Geneva, including those linked to the transformation of European security structures, Grigoriy Karasin, the head of the press and information department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, told journalists today. According to him, "in its approach to these problems the Russian side will be guided by instructions given by President Yeltsin who urges the Russian diplomacy to seek innovative answers to burning world problems."

"Both the Russian minister and his U.S. counterpart firmly adhere to the concept of the working Russian-U.S. partnership," Karasin said.

Hails Documents on European Security Pact

LD2103232195 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian* 1451 GMT 21 Mar 95

[By *ITAR-TASS* diplomatic correspondents Valeriy Sevryukov and Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 21 Mar—Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's information and press department today described the documents on a European stability pact adopted at the Paris conference as "the first attempt to make truly innovative responses to the European problems of the postconfrontation period." They are extremely important in circumstances where "the inertia of old approaches and mechanisms still gains the upper hand in a number of cases."

The Russian side hopes that if there is a mutual wish for it, the European states will manage to ensure that such innovation is the rule rather than the exception in European life, the Russian Foreign Ministry's official representative said.

Announces Kozyrev Visit to Budapest

LD2103151195 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1455 GMT 21 Mar 95

[By *ITAR-TASS* diplomatic correspondents Valeriy Sevryukov and Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 21 TASS—Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Andrey Kozyrev will pay a brief visit to Budapest en route home from Geneva where he is due to hold a working meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry Grigoriy Karasin said the purpose of the stop-over in Budapest was "to reaffirm the constructive tenor of relations between the two states". He stressed that a very confidential and effective mechanism of consultations at a high political level has been formed in relations between Russia and Hungary.

The Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Andrey Kozyrev was likely to discuss with the Hungarian leadership a number of aspects of European security, as well as a number of problems he will have discussed with Warren Christopher. "In short, it will be an important political visit which the leader of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs expects to yield very much".

Hungarian sources told *ITAR-TASS* in Budapest that the activity of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe would be in the focus of forthcoming talks between Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Andrey Kozyrev and the Hungarian leadership during their meeting in Budapest on March 24.

According to an official spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, the Russian chief diplomat's visit to Budapest had been prompted by the fact that Hungary is now acting as president of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Proceeding from the above, Andrey Kozyrev and his Hungarian colleague Laszlo Kovacs will concentrate not so much on bilateral relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Hungary as on the activity of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and its role in organising European-wide interaction aiming to settle the Chechnya crisis in the Russian Federation, the Hungarian spokesman stressed.

Kozyrev and Kovacs are also expected to exchange views on NATO expansion plans and on the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. In accordance with the preliminary agenda, the Russian minister will be received by Hungary's Prime Minister Gyula Horn, the Hungarian Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Grachev Adviser Kulikov Advocates Disbanding NATO

AU2003180295 Sofia 24 *CHASA in Bulgarian* 17 Mar 95 p 11

[Interview with Marshal Viktor Kulikov, former Warsaw Pact Combined Forces commander in chief and adviser to Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, by Lyubomir Denov in Moscow; date not given: "NATO Should Also Disband"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Denov] Marshal Kulikov, why are you Russians against the former socialist countries joining NATO?

[Kulikov] For me, it would be an extremely negative phenomenon if the former members of the Warsaw Pact were to join NATO. I say this primarily because this will strengthen the bloc's military might. The politicians say that the pact has peacemaking functions, but I ask them, against which state? What force of NATO's class threatens the security of the Western countries today? Accordingly, as a Russian citizen, I can say with a pure conscience: Since the Warsaw Pact dissolved itself, let

NATO do the same. You can be sure that peace will not suffer from this. Quite the reverse, it will bring peace and tranquillity to the world.

[Denov] However, what if Poland and Bulgaria nevertheless join NATO?

[Kulikov] This act will be at the cost of immense economic difficulties. New organizational structures will be needed, and all this will cause a serious imbalance in our mutual relations.

[Denov] Why do you consider that NATO membership is inevitably tied up with rearmament?

[Kulikov] How can it be otherwise? If Poland, for example, becomes a member of NATO, do you think that we will supply them with Russian weapons and ammunition?

[Denov] They will buy cartridges and shells from us, we are still leaders in Eastern Europe.

[Kulikov] Your supplies will be roughly enough for a single military conflict, and that is all. I am very well aware of the extent of your stocks. You will also give them automatic small arms, mortars, and armored personnel carriers. However, where will they get their aircraft, helicopters, and air defense missile systems? From us, of course.

[Denov] Very well, but our army is small and weak. At the moment, we cannot even guarantee our national security by ourselves. The Warsaw Pact has disintegrated....

[Kulikov] The Warsaw Pact did not disintegrate, it was disbanded. Another factor is that, at the moment, Bulgaria's national security is not threatened. Who wants to attack you? Furthermore, why have you decided that it is NATO that will help you? For many long years, NATO justified its existence with the "threat" that the Warsaw Pact allegedly presented. Well, since our organization no longer exists, why does NATO not disband itself? Whom does this world colossus fear?

[Denov] A few days ago, NATO Secretary General Willy Claes declared that, today, Islamic fundamentalism presents a bigger threat to Europe than communism did before. What do you say to this?

[Kulikov] An enemy can always be found. However, I ask why only NATO can serve as a guarantor of peace? Cannot we not all unite around the idea of the nonuse of weapons and force?

[Denov] How?

[Kulikov] Through partnership on an equal footing within the framework of the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

[Denov] Marshal Kulikov, let us not delude ourselves into thinking that the West will decide to dissolve

NATO. A war is going on the Balkans at the moment. If anything happens, no one will come to our aid. Will Russia help us?

[Kulikov] When I consider the views held by our political leaders and the extent to which our two economies are integrated, I venture to think that Russia will in fact come to Bulgaria's aid. In my view, the expansion of NATO will not provide any greater security guarantees but, quite the contrary, will increase the risk of war.

Look here, it is still too early for you to join NATO. The conditions for this simply do not exist. You have not yet matured enough for the pact, nor is it ready to receive you. I know the Bulgarians, and nobody can convince me that your public opinion supports joining NATO at an early date.

[Denov] As a professional soldier, what do you think about the Partnership for Peace Initiative?

[Kulikov] It is something real and feasible. However, it is necessary to define the partnership mechanism and Russia's role and place. Russia should have a certain status in the initiative.

[Denov] Do you consider that Islamic fundamentalism presents a danger to European peace, or that there is a risk of the Chechnya conflict causing a conflagration throughout the Caucasus?

[Kulikov] One should not exaggerate the role of religious conflicts. Recently, a meeting of the War Veterans Committee was attended by the chairmen from North Ossetia and Kabardino-Balkariya. They said that there will be no war in the Caucasus, that the Caucasians will not shoot at one another. The disputes regarding Islam do present a risk, but they will not find any support. In my view, the wars are fomented more by the politicians, unfortunately, than by religious differences, and the collapse of the economy of the former Soviet Union lies at the bottom of everything. [passage omitted]

Kozyrev: Former Yugoslavia on 'Brink of War'
LD2203092995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0853 GMT 22 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov, Nikita Yermakov, and Mikhail Kalmykov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris March 22 TASS—"The situation in former Yugoslavia is on the brink of war. It is explosive. The point is that a war may break out within two weeks or so either in Bosnia or throughout Yugoslavia. The peace process may be ensured by putting to the fore intermediate settlement stages, acceptable to the sides involved," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told ITAR-TASS here on Tuesday.

Kozyrev noted that the Yugoslavian problem was among the main subjects of his talk here with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and with the foreign ministers of several other states. "There are now several plans for a

settlement in former Yugoslavia. One of them was drawn up by the international 'Contact Group'. It enjoys universal backing, including the support of Belgrade. However, this plan is rejected by the leader of the Bosnian Serbs. But we are all exerting efforts now to implement it. There are also other peace plans. They are more all-embracing. We are not 100 per cent for them, but we do not reject them, too. In principle, these plans run in the correct direction, for instance, the plan of the European Union," the foreign minister stated.

According to Kozyrev, the existing plans sort of determine the end point in the settlement effort either in Bosnia or in Yugoslavia as a whole. "we know the end station, towards which we are moving, but now we are at the first station yet, that is at zero stage. Therefore, we should see whether there are two or three natural stops down this road, where progress could be achieved in accordance with these plans."

"We tell our partners: after all, cannot we seek stages or phases of our movement between the current situation, which is on the brink of a catastrophe, and the desired overall settlement. If we succeed in drawing the sides into negotiations, they will have to compete not on battlefields, but in peaceful initiatives".

The Russian foreign minister believes that even if complete peace is not achieved right away, it is important to draw the "Contact Group" and the sides involved in the conflict into the search for peace. "This is the crux of Russia's approach to the issue. If we make the peace process more dynamic, people will begin to think about talks, not war. This, in my opinion, would be a big step forward," Kozyrev stated.

Bosnian Serbs Release Russian Military Observer

LD2103215895 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Bosnian Serbs released a Russian military observer on Tuesday. Last Saturday Major Aleksey Nikolenko was detained on suspicion of spying and was declared persona non grata on Serb territory in Bosnia.

Soskovets Assesses Results of Ukraine Visit

Terms Crimea Ukraine's 'Internal Problem'

LD2103144695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1419 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev March 21 TASS—Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets said on Tuesday that the Crimean problem was dropped from the agenda of his talks with the Ukrainian leadership.

"We did not discuss the situation in the Crimea during our talks in Kiev. It is an internal problem of Ukraine",

Russia's chief negotiator at talks finalising preparations for the upcoming Russian-Ukrainian summit, told a news conference here.

Last Friday, the Ukrainian parliament abolished the Constitution of Crimea. The Crimean leadership insists the Constitution is still valid and looks for international support.

Says Credits to Kiev 'Cannot Be Endless'

LD2103153895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1432 GMT 21 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 21 Mar—"Russia's credits to Ukraine cannot be endless and irresponsible," Oleg Soskovets, Russia's first deputy prime minister, said at the end of his working visit to Kiev.

Soskovets believes that "it would be correct to build relations above all at the level of joint stock and private companies." "Necessary cooperation today is in the interests of the economies of the two states," he said. "Russia and Ukraine have links in the spheres of cooperation and technology."

Oleg Soskovets sees "the absence of a customs union and common forms of ownership" as the main reason preventing cooperation between the two states. At the same time he acknowledged that "Russia's legislation on privatization has gone a long way ahead of the Ukrainian legislation." Nevertheless, Soskovets said, the Ukrainian president had signed a decree on creating international financial-industrial groups. "I think that this will create a basis for forming relations in the defense sector and metallurgy," Soskovets said. "Today problems have already been resolved in creating financial-industrial groups in the production of aircraft engines and aluminum."

Announces Yeltsin To Visit Ukraine

LD2103154095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1524 GMT 21 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev March 21 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin will arrive in Ukraine on a state visit late in April or early in May, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets said on Tuesday.

Soskovets told TASS it will take about a month to finalise all documents to be signed during the Russian-Ukrainian summit and decide on all questions related to the visit.

Soskovets is now heading a Russian delegation in negotiations concerning a future friendship treaty between Russia and Ukraine.

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Russia Watches Crimea Developments, Sends Consular Group

LD2103164995 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1640 GMT 21 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Valeriy Sevryukov and Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 21 TASS—Moscow is closely watching Crimea's developments around the March 17 enactment of the Ukrainian parliament which annulled the Crimean Constitution, Russian Foreign Ministry senior spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing here today.

Karasin reaffirmed that the ministry's stance was respect for territorial integrity of Ukraine, adding that "the Russian public opinion is not indifferent to how the situation is unfolding in the Crimea".

The spokesman said Russia wants to continue its cooperation with Ukraine for possibly rapid achievement of agreements on key issues in Russian-Ukrainian relations, primarily a settlement of the Black Sea Fleet dispute.

Commenting on tasks of four officials who were sent to Simferopol by the Russian Embassy to Ukraine, Karasin said their assignment was temporary and aimed to provide counsel on consular matters, such Russian citizenship, for Crimea's residents. The consular group does not handle passport and visa questions, Karasin pointed out.

The diplomat elaborated that over the last year Crimea's citizens, public groups, servicemen of the Black Sea Fleet and leaders of the Crimean parliament increasingly frequently appealed to the Russian president, parliament, government and Foreign Ministry to send Russian consular workers to Crimea.

Aware of the sensitive nature of such a move with complexities of the Crimean situation in the background, the Russian Foreign Ministry long refrained from advising its embassy to Ukraine to assign its employees to Crimea, Karasin continued.

However, the spokesman said, the number of appeals recently amounted to a problem. To quench anxiety of the Crimean population, the Russian Foreign Ministry requested its Ukrainian counterpart to permit a Russian consular group to go to Crimea for consular functions. Ukraine gave consent in the form of a note.

Karasin stressed that the consular group would be guided in its activities by Russian and Ukrainian legislations and by international human rights documents.

"Such visits are a usual and widely adopted practice in international relations, and it fully conforms with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations," Karasin said.

Grachev, Shevardnadze Hold 'Constructive' Talks

MM2203095395 Moscow *KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian* 22 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Pelts and Vitaliy Denisov: "Treaty on Military Cooperation Prepared. The Visit to Georgia by Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation Minister of Defense, Continues"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the first day of the visit a meeting took place between the Russian minister and the leader of the Republic of Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze. It was a one-on-one meeting. After the conversation, which lasted half an hour, both delegations, expanded in composition for the occasion, sat down at the negotiating table. Afterward Army General Pavel Grachev and Eduard Shevardnadze replied to questions from journalists.

"I am very satisfied with the results of the meeting," the Georgian leader said. "We discussed very complex questions and reached mutual understanding on many problems. Now the delegations' experts will continue clarification of certain details of the documents presented for signing."

The Russian Federation defense minister confirmed this assessment and stressed the constructive nature of the dialogue of the dialogue which had taken place. He noted that a Treaty on Military Cooperation Between Russia and Georgia is effectively ready for signing, as are a whole series of other agreements between the two countries' military departments.

An accord was concluded on locating Russian military bases on Georgian territory—in Vaziani, Akhalkalaki, and Batumi. In addition, it is proposed to maintain the 345th Paratroopers Regiment already stationed in Gudauta.

Questions of cooperation in the sphere of the training of military cadres were agreed. At the beginning of last September 40 Georgian servicemen were trained in top Russian military establishments. However, because of unresolved problems regarding funding, only 17 remain today. The relevant relations in this sphere will now be regulated by a bilateral agreement. The same goes for questions of the ground-support servicing and maintenance of the two states' aviation.

An agreement on the formation of a unified air defense system throughout the entire transcaucasian region was also prepared. The Air Defense commanders in chief have already initialed this document, and practical work on the formation of a unified air defense system will begin in the near future.

One of the main questions discussed during the confidential meeting was that of settling the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. I have orders from Russian President Boris Yeltsin to discuss the problem of Georgian-Abkhazian relations with Eduard Shevardnadze, Army

General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister said. Russia's stance remains unchanged: Georgia is a unified state which could in future be organized on a federal basis.

In the minister's words, both the Georgian and Russian sides have today advanced a number of new proposals. An opportunity of making new, effective steps toward settling the conflict has emerged. What these steps are specifically the defense minister will be able to say only after reporting back to the Russian Federation president.

The Russian delegation is continuing its work in Georgia. It is assumed that the Russian Federation defense minister's visit will end Thursday. Army General Pavel Grachev will visit a number of military units and Russian Federation Defense Ministry repair enterprises which are located in Georgia.

Official Denies U.S. Claims on Rebuilding Iraqi Arsenal

LD2103143995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1339 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 21 (Interfax)—The Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigori Karasin, with reference to representatives of the

U.N. Special Commission for the Disarmament of Iraq, denied the U.S. assertions that Baghdad is restoring its chemical and missile arsenals.

The U.S. alleged, said Karasin during a briefing in Moscow on Tuesday, that "in violation of its commitments to implement the resolutions of the U.N. security Council, Iraq is taking measures to restore its centers for the production of ballistic missiles and chemical weapons."

The explanation provided by the Special Commission suggests that the facilities against which such serious charges have been brought, are being constantly monitored," said Karasin. He also noted that the Special Commission had not registered any illegal activity either on these or other controlled facilities.

Government To Send Peacekeepers to Angola

LD2103220095 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia intends to send its servicemen to Angola within the framework of carrying out a new peacekeeping operation in this African country.

Political Issues

Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Discuss Economic Reforms, Chechnya

LD2103172095 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian* 1627 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 21 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—The press service of the president of the Russian Federation has reported that a meeting took place in the Kremlin today between Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The report says that current questions concerning the government's work in implementing the economic reforms, and the problems of setting up representative and executive powers in the Chechen Republic were discussed.

The president and the prime minister examined questions connected with preparations to celebrate the 50th anniversary of victory in World War II. Staff issues were also touched upon in the course of the meeting, the report of the presidential press service says.

Yeltsin To Sign Federal Budget in 'Next Few Days'

LD2203153595 Moscow *INTERFAX in English* 1404 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Mar 22 (Interfax)—Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays told journalists after the vote on the budget in the Federation Council (Russian Senate) Wednesday [22 March] that during the next few days President Yeltsin would sign the law on the federal budget for 1995, approved by the State Duma (lower house of parliament) on March 15 and by the Federation Council on March 22. He described the adoption of the budget as "the restoration of order one of the most serious areas—finance."

He said that the strong resistance offered by the Federation Council did not come as a surprise. "The Federation Council has representatives of different political forces. Some of the deputies were concerned about ways of tackling practical problems they are responsible for, while others were driven by the wish to fit as best they could into the election campaign," said Chubays.

He said that the 1994 budget had been approved in July 1994 and the 1993 budget—in December 1993. He also told Interfax that according to the law, the 1996 budget is to be submitted to the parliament in June 1995 and that the Finance Ministry was drafting it already.

"Today is a good and successful day not for the Finance Ministry or the government, but for the whole nation," Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov told reporters after the vote.

"If the Federation Council had turned down the budget, the extension of western credits to Russia would have come under serious threat because our country, our economy and our estimates would not have been trusted," he said.

Further on Yeltsin's Vacation Plans

LD1703182295 Moscow *INTERFAX in English* 1625 GMT 17 Mar 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Boris Yeltsin has declared that he "likes the current situation in Russia, which is characterized by interaction between the various branches of power." He made this statement in the Kremlin Friday, answering questions put by Interfax reporter Boris Grishchenko after a ceremony where a number of ambassadors accredited to Russia presented their credentials.

Yeltsin also reported that during his forthcoming holiday he would visit Karachayevo-Cherkesiya, "where he will examine the whole knot of North Caucasus problems." "In Chechnya, everything will be normal, there will be a democratic republic within the Russian Federation," Yeltsin said.

He also declared that his Thursday [16 March] meeting with foreign journalists had made it possible "to break the circle of conjectures which are being mounted over the situation in Chechnya."

Receiving credentials from Uladzimir Fedorov, Ukraine's new ambassador, Yeltsin noted that negotiations with Ukraine "are going well" and that "in April, at the latest in May, but most likely in April, his formal visit to Ukraine will take place." "And it is then that the Treaty will be signed to make Ukraine a country friendly to Russia for hundreds of years," the Russian president said.

Answering the Interfax reporter, Yeltsin said that in his opinion the resignation of Aleksandr Yakovlev as head of the Ostankino TV Radio Company, accepted by the presidential branch, "was carried out by mutual consent since Yakovlev is creating his (own) party and will devote much attention to this."

Interfax correspondent Boris Grishchenko asked the president how he plans to spend his forthcoming vacations. "If you were sent on such vacations, I believe, you would refuse," said Yeltsin. (The head of state intends to take a break for 10-12 days late in March - IF).

"I will leave Moscow by train, at each station I plan meetings with people, residents of cities and settlements. I will be constantly at work, meeting with leaders of regions and cities and discussing local problems.

"I plan to stay for four days in Kislovodsk, also meeting with local leaders and discussing regional problems. From there, I intend to fly to Karachayevo-Cherkessiya,

and, as I have already said, to discuss the whole complex of Caucasian problems, maybe, holidaymaking in-between."

Then, he said, he intends to go on to Sochi, where he will spend four to five days, meet with work collectives and leaders of the Stavropol Territory.

"Well, I would call this spring part of my vacation businesslike," said the president. Yeltsin said, "I always divide my vacations in two parts, in March and in autumn, approximately 12 days each." "I specially collect days-off to add them to my pension days," joked the president.

Chernomyrdin Meeting With FITUR Chairman Reported

954E0637A Moscow *RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA* in Russian 3 Mar 95 p 2

[Interview with FITUR Secretary Galina Strela by Albert Kubarev; place and date not given: "The Sharp Corners of the Roundtable"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kubarev] Galina Ivanovna, as *RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA* has reported, at a recent meeting of representatives of FITUR [Federation of Independent Trade Unions] with the leadership of the government, Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin turned over to Mikhail Viktorovich Shmakov, FITUR chairman, the theses of answers to questions raised by trade unions. What is the content of these answers? Are you satisfied with them?

[Strela] An agreement was reached at the meeting we are talking about concerning the resumption of negotiations within the framework of the Conciliation Commission headed by First Deputy Prime Minister A. Chubays. The Conciliation Commission is starting work today. This is what alarms me in this connection. Will the government side come with specific proposals? Our previous meetings were not always effective. And the answers you mentioned did not satisfy me personally.

[Kubarev] Why?

[Strela] Measures that do not lead to the resolution of a problem cannot satisfy anyone. The answers are rather verbose, and it would be better if they were a little more specific. For example, the problem of nonpayments, including wages. Here, true, it is necessary to agree that a number of the measures for the "resolution of nonpayments" mentioned in the document transmitted to us by Viktor Stepanovich are being conducted. These are: treasury obligations, budget loans and bank credits, postponements and privileges regarding payments to the budget, internal branch and interbranch offsets of indebtedness, and agreements on joint actions on price stabilization. But these measures were ineffective from the standpoint of paying wage debts.

It is enough to name several figures. Overdue debts for wages continued at a level of R4.2-4.5 trillion from October of last year to the beginning of this year. In January the debt increased another R1.3 trillion, reaching R5.5 trillion! The result indicates the complete bankruptcy of the adopted measures. Incidentally, I mentioned the increase in indebtedness only for industry, construction, and agriculture. We still do not know what it is for enterprises of the defense complex and in the budgetary sphere, which is being financed both from the federal budget and from the budgets of Federation components.

The next question to Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin was formulated this way: "Does a practicable program of government accounts exist regarding budgetary obligations for fulfilling the 1994 state order (first of all, with enterprises of the defense complex)?"

Will this kind of answer satisfy the workers who fulfilled the 1994 state order: "The payment of debts to enterprises and organizations of the defense industrial branches for the performance of work under a state defense order in 1994 will be made in the process of implementing the 1995 federal budget." But when specifically will the "defense workers" receive their wages? As before, this is not known. The answers to practically all our questions are like this.

[Kubarev] Galina Ivanovna, I also became acquainted with the government document. And I do not agree with your claim. In my opinion, a specific and convincing answer was given to the next question. I will read it: "The government agreed to extend to the first quarter of 1995 the right of enterprises to direct 30 percent of revenue resources for the payment of wages in priority order. A government telegram of the Ministry of Finance of Russia and the State Taxation Service of 14 February 1995 submitted this procedure to the enterprises." What do you say to this?

[Strela] The quotation you cited confuses things to a very great degree. I will explain. The procedure that existed last year was actually extended. It was extended, incidentally, just as at one time it was introduced, at the persistent demand of the FITUR. But the telegram was just signed on 14 February, and it arrived at enterprises only at the end of the month. Consequently, in January and February the taxation service removed incoming revenue resources from accounts, without leaving anything for wages. The financial and production position of the enterprises did not change for the better in comparison with December and, as a result, the indebtedness for wages increased by R1.3 trillion, about which I have already spoken. But, after all, we began sounding the alarm about this back in December of last year.

Or this kind of elucidation follows our assertion about the fact that the minimum wage cannot be lower than the subsistence minimum: "According to statistical reports, 100,000-200,000 persons in our country receive the

minimum wage. But these are representatives of professions (janitors, office cleaners, shipping clerks) that have an opportunity to work at several jobs." There is not a word about the fact that 25 percent of the workers receive a wage that is lower than the subsistence minimum.

[Kubarev] But what will you say regarding the answer to the question about guaranteeing the maximum possible productive employment of the able-bodied population?

[Strela] We were given information on generally known statistics and about the fact that "the development of a 1995 federal program of employment assistance for the population was being completed. Meanwhile, the program named here, in accordance with the General Agreement for 1995, should have been approved as early as January of this year. Indeed, the program being developed does not contain measures for maintaining and forming new work places. It only envisions elementary and very meager support of those who have already become unemployed. After all, that is why we raised the question of the traditional program not being in a condition to prevent massive unemployment.

We simply did not see results in the course of four months of negotiation with various state departments on the demands put forth by the workers on 27 October of last year during the all-Russian protest action, which RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA elucidated extensively.

We were confident that it was possible to reach positive results. Unfortunately, our hopes were not justified. To date, only one item has been implemented from that considerable list: The Russian federal agency on bankruptcy prepared a draft edict of the Russian Federation president on overcoming the nonpayments crisis between enterprises. An edict like this came out recently. The rest of the departments did practically nothing that was workable.

[Kubarev] Yes, it seems that your guarded attitude toward the impending negotiations in the Conciliation Commission was fully substantiated.

[Strela] Of course, there is anxiety. Nevertheless, it is believed that Anatoliy Borisovich Chubays and his colleagues will come to the negotiations with a complex of feasible measures that will be capable of implementing the workers' demands.

Chernomyrdin Assures Moscow Mayor on Funding

LD2103144195 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1431 GMT 21 Mar 95

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Andrey Serov]

[*FBIS* Transcribed Text] Moscow March 21—Moscow will receive necessary funds from the federal budget, Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and Moscow

Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov agreed during their meeting today, a source in the governmental press-service told TASS.

The source did not specify the amount of the donation.

On Monday, Luzhkov told reporters that the government must grant Moscow 5.2 trillion roubles in subventions. However, the Finance Ministry has so far contributed only 1.9 trillion roubles for 1995.

Speaking in an evening telecast of the Moscow TV channel last week, Luzhkov accused the federal authorities of "an economic blockade of Moscow", saying First Vice-Premier Anatoliy Chubays (who supervises economic sectors in the government) and the Economics Ministry headed by Yevgeniy Yasin were responsible.

The premier backfired telling reporters that "Luzhkov had no grounds for his statement about the economic blockade of Moscow".

"I consider this to be a careless and unfounded allegation", Chernomyrdin noted. "I treat Moscow with great respect, and the government is doing very much for it, even more than for other regions", he emphasised.

ITAR-TASS learnt from sources at the Moscow townhall that Luzhkov also intended to discuss with Chernomyrdin the recent sackings of the Moscow police department chief and the Moscow chief prosecutor after the assassination of well-known TV journalist Vladislav Listyev.

Premier Addresses Agro-Industrial Conference

MM2103155895 Moscow *ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian* 21 Mar 95 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report under "Topical Theme" rubric containing "text" of Premier Chernomyrdin's speech at 17 March All-Russia Conference on the Stabilization and Development of the Agro-Industrial Complex: "Viktor Chernomyrdin: Budget Policy Is Going To Be Tough"—first four paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[*FBIS* Translated Text] A government-sponsored conference on the stabilization and development of the agro-industrial complex has been held in Moscow, as has a discussion of the program for rescuing the sector from crisis.

After "reform," probably the most widely used word today is "program." The leaders of the agro-industrial complex also met to discuss how Russia's agriculture is going to develop through the year 2000.

The proposed program will make it possible to reach the 1990 level in terms of agricultural production. Aleksandr Zaveryukha, deputy chairman of the government, opened the conference and noted that 1995 is going to be the year of real agrarian reform.

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However, in the opinion of the conference participants, much in the government's agrarian policy remains unclear, and this policy seemed inconsistent to them. That is why Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government, addressed the conference participants. We give you the text of his speech.

The theme of our meeting today is extraordinarily important and timely. The year 1995 must be a year of real agrarian reform. This target, set out in the Russian president's message to the Federal Assembly, is an organic part of the overall economic strategy elaborated and implemented by the government.

This year, 1995, we are taking the next step which not only guarantees the irreversibility of the economic reforms but also makes it possible to ensure the steady growth of the Russian economy.

It is envisaged that this will be achieved to a considerable extent by the noninflationary funding of the federal budget. The corresponding tough money and credit policy will be pursued. We will also implement a number of large-scale measures to boost state revenue. The considerable liberalization of foreign trade will continue. All this will enable us to achieve real financial stabilization as early as this year, 1995.

In this regard I would like to draw your attention to the fact that two days ago the State Duma adopted the Law "On The Russian Federation 1995 State Budget."

I can say without any exaggeration that this is a very major and beneficial support for our whole work. Essentially this is the first time throughout the years of the reform that we have had a budget which has been ratified as early as the first quarter. This represents an entirely different level of opportunity. But it is also a major responsibility. Putting it simply, we do not have the right to squander the third attempt to stabilize finances and radically reduce inflation.

For us all today there is one indisputable and absolute truth: We will meet the targets that we ourselves have built into the budget and our own commitments on lowering inflation—that means that the main conditions for a favorable investment climate will be created. This means that we will be able to make perceptible progress in the restructuring of the economy and the creation of the necessary market institutions. There will be no U-turns or adjustments to this approach.

It is a matter of honor for us to fulfill the commitments which have been made. Especially since the budget contains our own policy which we ourselves elaborated for ourselves and not for someone else's benefit. No one imposed it on us. This represents the things we have learned the hard way in a real sense during the years of reform.

Now in fact there is an opportunity to achieve a breakthrough in the economic crisis and launch the recovery of the Russian economy.

But the corresponding work must be done if this is to become a reality. That means to a considerable extent in the sphere where you work. First and foremost in the agrarian reform.

The government's 1995 action program for the agro-industrial complex is determined by the need to overcome the crisis trends in this sector of the economy. The essential premise to be borne in mind here is that the negative phenomena in the agro-industrial complex are due to various causes. Consequently different approaches are needed to overcome them too.

First of all, and I do not think that anyone is going to dispute this, the state of the agro-industrial sector is largely due to problems which have built up over many years. Low productivity in farming and stock raising and the uncompetitive output of the food industry became established back in the old economic conditions. But today, in the course of the reforms, and given the severe financial restrictions, they have become particularly acute and graphic.

The economic underdevelopment of the agrarian sector cannot be overcome in the short term, it must be the result of the radical reform of the agrarian sector and of a fundamentally new system of incentives and regulatory mechanisms.

Of course, the present situation in agriculture cannot be explained simply in terms of the past. And it is no secret that to a very considerable extent the current negative phenomena and trends in the agro-industrial complex reflect the crisis phenomena in the economy and cannot be overcome simply within that sector itself without a general economic stabilization.

Attempts to resolve particular sectoral tasks within the agro-industrial complex at the expense of other sectors of the economy will merely aggravate the situation in the country's economy and thereby delay the radical alteration of the situation in the complex itself.

That is why the agrarian reform in Russia does not and cannot have an autonomous path independent of the overall policy of establishing a civilized market economy.

These processes, which are vital for our country's future, are most closely interconnected. This means that hitches and delays in the reform of the agrarian sphere have a most direct impact on the progress of the economic and social transformations of the whole country generally.

In this connection I should like to stress the fundamental importance of the "Program for the Stabilization and Development of the Russian Federation's Agro-Industrial Production in 1996-2000" which is under discussion here today.

Of course, it needs further work to be done. So as to make it less rhetorical and more realistic. And, if you will, to make it more technologically efficient by more

confidently allowing specific market economy mechanisms to enter the agrarian sphere.

That is why we will comprehensively support this program by working toward the goals outlined in it: That means in 1996-1997 overcoming the crisis in agriculture and stabilizing agricultural production; and in 1998-2000—ensuring real growth in the production of agricultural output.

What can we as a federal government do to achieve that now?

First of all the implementation of the land reform will be accelerated. This is the fundamental basis. Hence our paramount task is the unconditional fulfillment of the president's edict on the regulation of land relationships and the development of the reform in Russia.

In particular, land ownership certificates will be issued to all landowners and the process of holding land auctions will be accelerated. The Law on the Registration of Land Ownership Rights and the Law on Mortgages will be submitted for Federal Assembly scrutiny by 1 May 1995. In addition, we will submit to parliament a legislative act allowing the sale of land currently occupied by enterprises. The government also intends to help abolish the restrictions imposed by a number of components of the Russian Federation and local authorities on the sale of leased land, buildings, and premises intended for the commercial activity of privatized enterprises.

In the next few days the government is to examine the draft medium-term Program of Reforms for 1995-1997. Over the next three years the program will be aimed at forming new institutional, sectoral, and regional structures for the agrarian sector to meet the country's food and agricultural raw materials requirements.

What does this entail?

First, the completion of the transformation of land relationships and of the land market. I have already spoken about the priority steps in this direction.

Second, support for different types of agro-industrial enterprises with a full production cycle.

Third, the attraction of private capital into the agrarian sector by the creation of agricultural and other banks to provide credit for agricultural commodity producers.

Fourth, differentiated efforts to regularize the affairs of insolvent debtors.

Fifth, the transition to credit for agricultural commodity producers largely mortgaged against the future harvest.

Sixth, incentives for private and foreign investments in the agro-industrial complex's processing industry.

The agrarian reform is aimed at creating a market infrastructure including, first and foremost, a credit

mechanism, a wholesale and commodity exchange network for agricultural produce, and a brokerage link in the food complex.

The strategy of state support for the agro-industrial complex will be aimed at subsidizing the consumer, encouraging demand for produce rather than supply, rational protectionism for this country's producers, and the maintenance of the sector's scientific and technical potential.

The medium-term aim of this strategy is to reduce the total volume of subsidies for the agro-industrial complex by increasing the complex's efficiency and boosting demand for its end product.

Now for a few words about a matter which, I am sure, concerns each of you in this hall. I am talking about questions of funding the agro-industrial complex and how they will be resolved this year.

Budget policy is going to be tough. There will be no relaxation. A country such as Russia cannot allow itself the luxury of making the same mistake three years in a row.

Federal budget support for the agro-industrial complex is being maintained at the 1994 level. It is envisaged that 35 trillion rubles [R] will be channeled into the agrarian sector from all sources of finance.

At the same time it is planned to use new approaches to the financing of seasonal and procurement work this year and to focus the state's help on measures which make it possible to achieve the greatest economic effect.

Putting it bluntly, we must learn the lessons of last year's experience. I think many people will agree that the provision of credit to agricultural commodity producers in 1994 at the Central Bank's discount rate showed the ineffectiveness of this method of resolving the problem of financing seasonal work in agriculture, which puts the cost of borrowing up by a factor of 2.5-3.

Consequently in 1995 we have tried, for the first time, to move away from the direct allocation of credits by switching to the broader use of credits against goods and budget loans.

In the formation of food stocks extensive use will be made of resources allocated to procurement organizations in 1993-1994 and included in the budget as returnable resources.

Appropriations used last year to set up an agricultural equipment leasing fund will be used in the same way. It is planned to spend R1 trillion of federal budget funds to expand leasing.

The budget envisages that appropriations for mineral fertilizer subsidies will be increased to R981 billion. It is proposed that they be issued in the first and second quarters of the current year for use during the sowing campaign.

This year it is planned to issue subsidies totaling R500 billion for the acquisition of mixed feed for poultry farms and large stock-raising complexes.

Furthermore, in order to improve the financial position of agro-industrial complex enterprises, the government has decided to convert to a state internal debt the indebtedness of agricultural enterprises amounting to R3 trillion for credits issued in 1992-1994. This debt will be repaid by agricultural enterprises over 10 years at a yearly interest rate of 10 percent.

I am bound to mention another urgent and vital problem. The point is that the objectively inevitable liberalization of foreign trade has highlighted the uncompetitiveness of a considerable proportion of enterprises producing agricultural output and has considerably restricted their potential on the domestic market.

Unfortunately, the problem is being aggravated by a number of subjective factors. First and foremost this is due to restrictive practices [zakrytost] in the food markets of the country's major industrial centers, such as Moscow and St. Petersburg. It is virtually impossible for Russian produce to penetrate those cities. This has led to a great many unpleasant clashes, confrontations, and so forth. In these conditions, attempts to set up protective customs barriers often prove unproductive for this country's food complex and painful for consumers.

Nevertheless, the government has instructed that proposals be drawn up within one month to change the customs tariffs on agricultural produce and food and use the additional revenue thus generated to finance the agro-industrial complex.

I believe that this all-Russia conference will help clarify the crucial questions of the reform. I wish you success in your work.

Text of Chernomyrdin Letter on Chechnya

MM2103171895 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Mar 95 p 3

[Letter from Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government, to Ramazan Abdulatipov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council: "Government's Standpoint. Viktor Chernomyrdin: 'Where There Is Good Will and the Sides Are Responsible, Peace Can Be Achieved'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Ramazan Gadzhimuradovich!

Thank you for your invitation to participate in the work of the "Peace Initiative in the Caucasus" conference. I hope it will be an important step in the process of reaching a political settlement in the Chechen Republic and that the proposals produced by it will reflect the joint and coordinated efforts of the federal organs of

power, the Federation's components, and public and religious figures searching for a solution to the crisis.

I would like to point out that the Russian Federation Government will in any circumstances continue to carry out its work of delivering fuel, food, and medicines to the population, repairing buildings and enterprises, helping the peasants prepare for the sowing campaign, creating public order protection organs, and so on. If this work is carried out in conditions of peace, it will greatly accelerate the return to normal life in Chechnya.

Any initiatives for a peaceful settlement should be welcomed. Any plans are good if they lead to the real result.

Many useful and constructive ideas are contained in the conference's draft documents forwarded by you. Much in them echoes work already carried out by the Government Chairman's Public Council To Promote a Settlement of the Situation in Chechnya. Its next session will be taking place in the next few days. We intend to discuss at the session all the existing proposals for a peaceful settlement in the Chechen Republic, including those which will be drawn up at the "Peace Initiative in the Caucasus" conference.

I would like for my part to put forward several preliminary thoughts on the essence of the question

In my view a blueprint of the possible stages of a peaceful settlement has already emerged. Most important are the negotiations on creating zones of the reciprocal nonuse of force. In these zones combat operations will cease immediately, the disengagement of the warring sides and the handover of heavy weapons must take place, and the stockpiling and storage of these weapons under the supervision of groups of mediators and the guarantee of the elders must be organized.

In a number of regions of Chechnya negotiations on the creation of these zones are already in progress. I think that by using the experience gained at these talks it is now very important and necessary for us to combine our efforts and work out their general status. Leaving aside military questions, mechanisms should be found here to resolve humanitarian questions and administrative problems. This includes the delivery of humanitarian freight and aid, carrying out repair work, guaranteeing both the civil rights and freedoms of the population, and organizing the activities of the organs of local self-government.

What is most important is to reach an understanding that a normal peaceful life can be achieved precisely where there is good will and where the sides are responsible.

Our proposals regarding cease-fire negotiations and the establishment of local truces are well known; all of them remain good, as do the guarantees of amnesty for persons who have laid down their arms.

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I would like in particular to emphasize that it is essential to see all negotiations of this type in the context of corresponding agreements on creating zones of the reciprocal nonuse of force.

On the other hand it is clear that the comprehensive formation of such zones is an absolute requirement for a decision on the territory's subsequent step-by-step demilitarization.

I see the second stage of the peace settlement in establishing an intra-Chechen dialogue on questions of forming an effective and responsible power in the Chechen Republic during a transitional period ahead of democratic elections.

It is specifically in this area that the institution of mediators may play a leading role. It is now extremely important to determine with the active assistance of the mediators who in Chechnya itself are the responsible sides capable, first, of providing government on the republic's territory and, second, of organizing and holding the democratic elections which would constitute the third and, in my view, concluding stage of the peace settlement.

The election of a Chechen Republic legislative organ will see the emergence of a subject of intra-Russian political dialogue which will represent the opinion and the will of the entire Chechen people. It is then that it will be possible to discuss on a legal basis questions of the delimitation of the federal and republic authorities' powers and much else besides. The formation of organs of local self-government and the election of deputies to the Federal Assembly from Chechnya will be of great importance.

In conclusion I want to emphasize once again that the Russian Federation Government is ready to support any realistic steps which will bring closer the end of the Chechen tragedy, and is itself doing and will continue to do everything possible to restore peace, order, and normality in the Chechen Republic.

Chernomyrdin To Head Council on Local Self-Government

LD2103182295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1805 GMT 21 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 21 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has agreed to head the presidential Public Council on local self-government, Sergey Shakhrai, vice-prime minister and leader of the Party of Russia's Unity and Accord (PRES), said on Tuesday upon the completion of the meeting with the prime minister.

The Council is aimed at thrashing out the activity of the government and parliament to implement laws on local self-government.

Government Postpones Scheduled Session

LD2203083395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0718 GMT 22 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 22 Mar—The Russian Government session scheduled for today has been postponed. The session was expected to discuss results of the privatization of state and municipal enterprises, as well as tasks involved in implementing the second stage of privatization in 1995.

The reasons behind the postponement of today's session have not yet been disclosed, but it looks quite probable that the members of the cabinet decided to concentrate their efforts on preparations for the open government meeting to be held in the Kremlin on 24 March, which is to be attended by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin.

Split Between Rutskoy, Lipitskiy Detailed

954F1710A Novosibirsk VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK in Russian 6 Mar 95 p 5

[Article by Vladimir Kuzmenkin: "Will the Parting Be Without Sorrow?...: The Story of One 'Divorce'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The break (to all appearances, final) between Vasily Lipitskiy and Aleksandr Rutskoy became one of the major political events of February that will have an effect on our region as well. It is understandable: After all, Lipitskiy was declared to be "our man in Moscow" a long time ago, and everything that he does in politics is of interest to his constituents. Well, Rutskoy is of interest because he is Rutskoy."

The story of the joint creation of the two politicians—one of Russia's parties that changed its name too often in its brief history—started in that well-known August of 1991. At that time, the Communists for Democracy deputy faction (wisecrackers called it "Wolves for Vegetarianism"), which was still headed at that time by Colonel Rutskoy, and the Democratic Movement of Communists, whose leader was Lipitskiy, initiated contacts for the purpose of creating a new political party. And soon the Democratic Party of Communists of Russia appeared, which already at its first congress was renamed the People's Party of Free Russia. Rutskoy became chairman of the party, and Lipitskiy—chairman of its board. In fact, the latter managed all the activity of the NPSR [People's Party of Free Russia]: He had in his hands the apparatus, party construction, organizational questions, and finances. But the chairman of the party, according to the regulations, was a purely ceremonial figure, as a matter of fact, without any official duties.

This organization of affairs satisfied everyone: The vice president was expressing dissatisfaction at the top, practically not doing anything with the party—on the other hand, he was a charismatic personality and in a certain

sense the banner of the party. It is clear that many went to the NPSR "under Rutskey." But Lipitskiy occupied himself entirely with party work, at which he also was successful. Awkward situations, however, arose after another statement by Rutskey which, naturally, was not coordinated with the party leadership. Lipitskiy had to put on a brave face in a bad game. The chairman of the party's board answered questions concerning mutual relations with the chairman of the party like a true diplomat...

October 1993. Rutskey was in Lefortovo; the party did not reject him, although, as a matter of fact, it became responsible for the act of one person. Lipitskiy gave VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK an interview: "My friend got into trouble." That was his position and the position of the NPSR. As a result, Vasilii Lipitskiy was the first to raise the question of amnesty, and it was soon declared. Rutskey appeared at the party's council in March and, in the opinion of many, he presented his most brilliant speech in which he gave an analysis of what had happened and reported on his intentions to actively engage in party affairs. But as soon as April, reproaches appeared about a "breakdown in work," etc. Soon Aleksandr Rutskey reported his intentions to create a social-patriotic movement, the "State," and the party was to carry out all the organizational work.

But it is here that the moment of truth arrives: The paths of Rutskey and Lipitskiy finally parted. Rutskey was a political model who is characteristic for mother Russia. He knows that "it is impossible to live that way," and he believed that he knew how one could live. But all this could be done after coming to power. In fact, all these parties and factions were only instruments for the implementation of the ultimate aims: "so that people might live with dignity." Therefore, Rutskey visited the party council only twice—this was not his work, and others should do it for him. He could do other things...

Lipitskiy is a doctor of sciences and a person of an academic turn of mind. His positions are not fuzzy, but extremely specific—the social-democratic doctrine will help resolve our problems. It is not accidental that he named his last book "Promised Socialism," and the party soon changed its name to the Russian Social-Democratic People's Party, declaring its intentions to join with a number of other organizations of a social-democratic orientation in a Russian social-democratic union. This was the last straw. Rutskey spoke out at the council, but he did not get support. Then he himself, not paying any particular attention to a quorum and the bylaws, convened his own council and introduced a resolution concerning the expulsion of Lipitskiy from the party. In reply, the board assembled and, "in accordance with the requirements of the bylaws," expelled Rutskey and 10 other persons from the party. New talks will be held in March, but it is already clear now that the break, which was expected a long time ago, had occurred. Moreover, not in the most polite form: Aleksandr Rutskey talked in Novosibirsk about "the innate quality

of a traitor" of his former companion-in-arms. Lipitskiy, as before, did not start to argue on the same level, and his team recalled who fought for Rutskey's amnesty and that the general had once already pardoned himself for his impulsiveness. The situation in the "center" was momentarily also reflected in the regions: After Rutskey's visit to Novosibirsk, two organizations of the RSDNP [Russian Social-Democratic People's Party] and two chairmen appeared immediately. Moreover, Viktor Kozodoy, chairman of the Novosibirsk branch of the RSDNP (Lipitskiy's group), is confident that, according to documents and legal norms, a "second" organization, and also a "second" chairman (Aleksandr Besedin—Rutskey's group), simply does not exist. Legally, in his words, no problem exists here.

What will happen? Nothing in particular. The RSDNP remains Lipitskiy's party: The person, in fact, who created the organization and who for more than three years stood at the helm is, of course, keeping the situation under control. This means a consistent policy of rapprochement with various groups of Russian social-democrats, with the prospect of creating a major party and a policy for joining the Socialist International.

Aleksandr Rutskey is already working on the creation of the State, he is going around the country speaking a lot, and he is not particularly suffering from the break with the social democrats, whom he called "a tail fixed to the regime." Ahead of him are the presidential elections, and he is preparing a base for himself "without any kind of 'isms'."

Each has taken his own path, and how correct the choice was can only be seen at the very end of the path. If, of course, its end is reached.

Article Links Vedenkin to KGB

954F1691C Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 1 Mar 95 p 1

[Article by Marina Vartanyan: "Vedenkin Drove to the Kremlin in His Own Car"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Vedenkin outside the KGB? This simply cannot be," is briefly the way to present an exclusive commentary made yesterday morning to a MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS correspondent by Oleg Vakulovskiy, editor in chief of the Russian Television and Radio Company and author of a program that is now at the center of everyone's attention—"Fascists in Russia. Who Are They?"

"The creative group of the program today possesses photographic documents, which are frequently more eloquent than official materials. These documents confirm: Vedenkin simply could not have held only low-level posts in the GUVd [Main Administration of Internal Affairs]—while at the same time meeting both with the upper echelons of the KGB and with other high-level managers and very important persons in a situation that, in any case, is removed from militia

dealings. The materials that we have reliably indicate that he not only entered the Kremlin easily, but that he also drove there in his personal car—which, naturally, is only allowed to a limited circle of persons."

This makes it possible to seriously doubt the reliability of the FCS statement concerning Vedenkin's nonparticipation in the work of the Russian special services.

In addition, I should soon receive video materials confirming what I have said above in more detail and thoroughly. In particular they will in all probability contain very visible confirmation of the fact that Vedenkin was a member of the Presidential Security Service in 1991—or rather, that he worked directly inside the administrative structures of this service.

What will happen now? I want to repeat: I have nothing with which to set citizens' minds at ease; the rise of fascism in our society is actually a real and very terrible fact. Thus, we will continue. First, in the next few days television viewers will be able to watch a replay of our program "Fascists in Russia. Who Are They?" And second, in the next few days those new photographic and video materials I talked about will be shown on the air—showing Vedenkin's real participation in the work of the Russian special services. And not only that...

Better Legislation Urged To Curb Illegal Arms

954F1709A Novosibirsk *VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK*
in Russian 6 Mar 95 p 4

[Article by Irina Borisova: "First the Shooting, Then the Law..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] Up to this point legislators are unable to decide how to react to illegal armed formations.

Chekhov spoke about the gun which absolutely had to be fired if it appeared in the first act of a play. From the perspective of today's crime situation, Anton Pavlovich was not only a classicist, he was a prophet as well.

Of course, he could not have anticipated that such a quantity of arms would be spreading throughout Russia, especially in the "hot spots." But he warned about the fact that any weapon would be fired. And I do not think he had in mind just dramatic action but life itself as well. What we have now in law and in practice shows that our legislative branch read Chekhov in school.

It was literally not until last year that we found out that we seem to have gangsters. The article has been in the Criminal Code for a long time, but practically no criminal cases were filed under it. Law enforcement organs and the court most frequently stumbled over the word "armed." For some reason it was interpreted as meaning only "fire arms." And if people used large sharp knives or axes to snuff out human souls, they were not considered gangsters. Recently a report appeared in the mass media to the effect that there was a sharp increase in the demand for crossbows—they fire noiselessly and hit the

target accurately. The medieval crossbow and the modern gangster—are they really incompatible? After the president's edict on protecting the population from gangsterism, criminal cases began to be brought and specific gang members were named. The following opinion was heard: What is the difference, why is a criminal condemned—for causing serious bodily harm or for gangsterism? But still there is a difference if the law recognizes it.

Now the two chambers of our parliament are still unable to decide how to react to illegal armed formations. There is hardly any question that they exist in the country. The State Duma adopted the corresponding supplement to the Criminal Code. The Federation Council rejected it and proposed its own version of the article: "Organization of armed associations, detachments, patrols, and other armed formations not envisioned by federal laws, and also participation in these formations shall be punished by incarceration for a period of up to eight years." If these deliberate actions are accompanied by mass violence against people, the time may be increased to 20 years. In the event that people die, the death sentence is also possible. An individual who has voluntarily left an illegal armed formation and turned in his weapon is released from criminal liability. I do not know which version of the law will be adopted. What is important is when. Arms or, rather, Kalashnikov automatics and machine guns have been banging away for a long time, but the law, in the manner of a dilettante, without hurry, is being generated, as it were, by the trial-and-error method.

It is understandable that the events in Chechnya required acceleration of the adoption of the corresponding legal act. But did we not have these armed formations before, even in the time of the USSR? And now, did they just spring up there—in the Northern Caucasus? After all, do the crime groups—interregional, international, and also local—not deserve the "honor" of being called formations? But that is a layman's view—a legal expert tells me. And in general, perhaps, nobody today can determine precisely the difference between a gang and this same armed formation. If three to five "skinheads" have an automatic and a couple of pistols, not to mention nunchaku sticks and knives, what do you call them. After all, this "gentlemen's collection" is not a hobby.

Do we have armed formations here in Novosibirsk Oblast? Professional investigators give various answers. Some have stated quite definitely: They are here and if we do not deal with them once and for all, our chances of a peaceful future are not very good. Weapons are always fired: Either the "thugs" earn their bread working for the boss or they get it themselves—robbery, rackets, etc.

Another specialist answered simply: No. There are organized groups, perhaps gangs, but no formations. As is frequently the case, the truth becomes clear during the process of implementation of a law that is not yet adopted.

Let us take a particular example. Many commercial structures have their protection services. Last year there were more than 200 of them. The police discovered that about 40 of them were illegal; they did not have licenses. Their weapons, as a rule, were "gas pistols" but even the police cannot know everything. Protocols are being drawn up for filing administrative charges. And only after that—for malicious deviation from licensing rules—can criminal charges be filed. But it seems there is no Russian law on administrative liability, there is only a local one. And it is not always an edict for the courts. Of course, the majority of protection groups properly register after the intervention of the police. One might wonder what this has to do with armed formations. If you look deeper and further it cannot be ruled out the first brick in their building could be placed in the illegal protection structure. That is the way we live: First the shooting, then the law.... Alas!

Media Issues

Director of Private Radio Station Killed by Gunshot

LD2203140995 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1334 GMT 22 Mar 95

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Larisa Kislinkaya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 22 TASS—Aleksey Kropov, director of the Moscow private "Vox" radio station, was killed by a shot in the mouth, forensic experts said on Wednesday [22 March] thus denying a police version that the businessman died in a road accident.

Previously, police of the town of Khimkiy, near Moscow, reported that Kropov died in a road accident when his ford collided with a Moskvich sedan on Leningradskoye Shosse road 19 kilometres outside Moscow on March 15.

Kropov did not have any documents on him and was identified only last Monday, police said.

The "Vox" radio was switched off the broadcasting on January 1, 1995 since it had no money to pay the state for leasing a broadcasting channel.

Kropov managed to receive loans from private banks and resume operation of his radio programme. His last debt totaled 155 million roubles. He also owed about 70 thousand dollars to private persons, police added saying that those debts could be a reason of Kropov's murder.

The investigation into the killing is in progress.

Russian TV Figures Receive Death Threats

LD2103222695 Moscow *INTERFAX in English* 1928 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Mar 21 (Interfax)—Several top figures on Russian television have recently

been threatened with murder, a source in one of Russia's law enforcement agencies said.

Those who received threats had either given evidence over the March 1 murder of television journalist Vladislav Listyev or have anything to do with the newly founded Public Russian Television, the source told Interfax.

One of them, Aleksandr Lyubimov, a top executive in the ViD television company who was a personal friend of Listyev's, since the beginning of this week has needed the services of "professional and well-armed bodyguards," the source said.

Law enforcement authorities "are aware" of threats received by other television figures as well and are taking "preventive measures."

"Possible sources" of the threats, which may be "directly or indirectly connected" to Listyev's murder, "are being carefully checked," the source said.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Official on Availability of Chemical Weapons in Russia

LD2103204395 Paris *France-2 Television Network in French* 1900 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Japan the toll of the gas attack in the Tokyo subway now stands at eight dead, as doctors fight to save several dozen people still in a coma. [passage omitted: latest details]

According to experts, there is no known antidote to sarin. The gas is currently made in a number of countries, including the United States, Iraq, perhaps Libya, and the former USSR. Given the economic collapse of the former USSR, there is no reason why the people behind the attack could not have got their supplies in Russia. Dominique Derda reports:

[Begin recording] [Derda] [video shows shots of unidentified factory, captioned: Saratov, southern Russia] You can get in here almost at will. But it ought to be one of the best guarded places in Russia, one of the six or seven storage centers for thousands of tonnes of toxic gas formerly produced by the Soviet Union.

You can find everything in Russia—sarin, as used in Japan, and many others even more deadly. Everything leads one to believe that the least self-respecting terrorist would have no difficulty in getting hold of a few liters. Here everything is for sale and everything can be bought.

[Vil Mirzoyanov, captioned as chemical weapons specialist, speaking in Russian with superimposed French translation] Chemical weapons are the ideal weapon for terrorists. [passage omitted] Depots can easily be robbed, the chemicals stolen and sold, and I would not be surprised if they turned up abroad, especially since our

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authorities are corrupt, and most of all since our military men are completely untrustworthy.

[Derda] The Russian counterintelligence services are currently investigating a general suspected of having supplied Syria with components for the manufacture of toxic gases. It was doubtless not by chance that he was in charge of the Biological and Chemical Arms Committee. The international conventions signed by Russia have still not been ratified. This means that there are currently neither foreign observers nor any real control over the 40,000 tonnes officially being stored in the country. [video shows Mirzoyanov, canisters, Russian TV pictures of chemical workers] [passage omitted: how Paris would cope with gas attack] [end recording]

Pacific Fleet Begins Exercises in Sea of Japan

LD2203091595 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 0856 GMT 22 Mar 95

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Yuriy Grachev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladivostok March 22 TASS—The Russian Pacific Navy is beginning, according to plan, large-scale naval exercises today. Taking part in them will be about twenty submarines, surface craft, assault boats, helicopters and naval aircraft.

The press centre of the Russian Pacific Navy reports that the manoeuvres are intended to polish off several up-to-date tactical methods of warfare. About forty different combat exercises will be carried out.

The manoeuvres are taking place in the Sea of Japan. They are directed by Admiral Igor Khmel'nov, commander of the Russian Pacific Navy.

Safety Concerns Persist Following Voronezh Missile Incident

MM2203153895 Moscow *IZVESTIYA in Russian* 22 Mar 95 p 2

[Report by Viktor Belikov: "Front Line Aviation Has Ceased Missile Launches Near the Novovoronezhskaya Nuclear Electric Power Station"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The missile fired by an Su-25 during fire training at the test range near the Novovoronezhskaya Nuclear Electric Power Station [AES] on 10 March (our newspaper described this in detail in issue 47 "Emergency Near Nuclear Station. The Authorities' First Reaction Was to Hide the Truth") deviated from its preset trajectory and fell to ground on the outskirts of a population center "because of a rare design-production defect."

That is the conclusion of the commission conducting the investigation into the dangerous incident which Colonel General N. Antoshin, commander of the Russian Armed forces front line aviation, read out to journalists. He flatly rejected the suggestion in some of the mass media that the air to surface missile's flight anomaly was due to

the poor organization of fire training or the unpreparedness of the air crew. As evidence of the airborne warriors' high skill the commander in chief reported that when such a missile was launched the first time from the same Su-25 ground-attack plane, there was zero deviation from trajectory and the target was 100 percent destroyed.

Your *IZVESTIYA* correspondent asked what consequences ensued from this incident when the circumstances of the case became clear.

"The airmen are totally innocent and will not be punished," the general stated. "We have made full recompense for the minor material damage. By chance a local resident was at the spot where the missile landed and he received minor abrasions from a missile fragment: Apologies have been made and he has been given compensation."

The investigation commission is continuing work, the final result of which will be a detailed document with practical recommendations for the manufacturers of the aviation armament and for the relevant operational services in front line units.

"Could the air to surface missile have hit the Novovoronezhskaya AES by accident?"

"That is absolutely impossible," the commander stressed. "The nuclear station is 7 km away from the spot where the missile fell and is situated outside its target run sector. Even so, from now on we have banned all guided missile launches at the Pogonovo test range and a number of other tough restrictions have been imposed which preclude a repetition of this incident. Instructions have also been given that all 36 test ranges used by the Russian Air Force undergo recommissioning (a review of the terms of their operation)."

Postscript. Civilian specialists whom we contacted are certainly not as clear cut in their assessment of the incident and do not take such an optimistic view of the safety of nuclear power stations, especially the Voronezhskaya AES.

Victory Day Celebratory Events Outlined

MM2203170095 Moscow *RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian* 22 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by Yuriy Belkin: "How Will Victory Day Be Marked"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Aleksandr Lazarev, first deputy chairman of the Moscow Committee for Culture, informed *RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA* that the holiday will begin 8 May with the unveiling of a memorial to G.K. Zhukov on Manege Square. Then there will be a ceremonial assembly and a concert in the Great Kremlin Palace in the evening.

The war veterans will walk in procession across Red Square on 9 May. There will be a parade of students

from the Ministry of Defense Academy there too. Military hardware will proceed along Kutuzovskiy Prospekt. The Victory monument and museum will be opened on Poklonnaya Gora. Here the Russian president and the distinguished guests will take part in a rally. Artists will perform on numerous daises, and songs from war days will be sung.

The grand finale will take place on Red Square. The brass bands which started off on Tverskaya Street will demonstrate their skill at the Kremlin walls. A performance for the stage entitled "At Six O'clock in the Evening After the War," will go on for a whole four hours—until the grand festival salute. The beams of powerful searchlights, exactly the same as in the war years, will cut across the night sky over Moscow.

A big concert program will be shown on St. Basil's Slope in Red Square.

This event will also be marked by special anniversary awards being presented to veterans. Orders depicting Georgiy Zhukov and medals in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Victory will adorn their chests. Over 1 million participants in the Great Patriotic War will receive them.

"We will do all we can to ensure that the Victory Holiday is a magnificent, large-scale, majestic event, befitting our people's feat," Yuriy Luzhkov said, addressing a meeting of the Moscow government and of cultural figures participating in the holiday celebrations.

Foreign Intelligence Service Prepares Report on NPT

LD2103194095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1851 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 21 ITAR-TASS—The Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (FIS) prepared a regular open report whose subject is extension of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), ITAR-TASS was told today in the FIS' public relations centre.

The report will be presented by FIS Director Yevgeniy Primakov to a news conference in the Russian Foreign Ministry on March 23.

This report follows FIS' three open reports on NATO-related issues, relations between Russia and CIS states, and the spread of nuclear weapons.

Cosmonauts Safely Return to Earth

LD2203055095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0513 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 22 TASS—Russian cosmonauts Aleksandr Viktorenko, Yelena Kondakova and Valeriy Polyakov safely returned to

Earth this Wednesday at 07:04, Moscow time, (04:04 GMT) after completing their flight programme aboard the Mir space station.

The descent capsule of the Soyuz TM-20 spaceship landed in Kazakhstan 36 kilometers north-east of the city of Arkalyk.

Their 17th main expedition continued explorations and experiments in astrophysics, geophysics, space materials studies and medicine during 169 days. Doctor Polyakov who was launched into space on January 8, 1994 as member of the 15th expedition crew, made a record flight of 438 days and 18 hours.

Russian cosmonauts Vladimir Dezhurov and Gennadiy Strekalov as well as U.S. astronaut Norman Thagard continue work aboard the Mir station.

Military Space Forces Launch Kosmos-3M Satellite

LD2203060495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0417 GMT 22 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS freelance correspondent Viktor Gritsenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 22 Mar—The military and Air Force attaches of nearly fifty countries witnessed today's launch of a Kosmos series satellite in the interests of the Russian Federation's Ministry of Defense from Plesetsk cosmodrome. The Kosmos-3M booster rocket was launched successfully from the launching pad of launch zone No. 132 by the Russian Military Space Forces, at 0709 Moscow time [0409 GMT]. Direction of the launch was conducted personally by Colonel General Vladimir Ivanov, commander of the Military Space Forces.

Parameters for 'Kosmos-2310' Satellite Reported

LD2203143395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1414 GMT 22 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS freelance correspondent Viktor Gritsenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 22 Mar—The "Kosmos-2310" satellite that was launched this morning by the Russian Military-Space forces (MSF) from the Plesetsk launching pad has been placed in orbit with the following planned parameters: period of revolution around Earth—105.1 mins; orbital inclination—82.9 degrees; apogee—1,024.1 km; perigee—996.4 km.

ITAR-TASS was told at the MSF press center that the launch was carried out in the interests of the Russian Defense Ministry.

Federal Assembly

Duma Summons Chernomyrdin Over Moscow's Stand on Ukraine

LD2203104495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1030 GMT 22 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 22 TASS—The State Duma has invited Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to address the lower chamber of the Russian parliament next Friday during its "government hour". Two hundred and thirty-eight MPs voted for this motion today. Twelve MPs blackballed it. Nobody abstained.

The motion to invite the premier to the State Duma was tabled by MP Nikolay Lysenko, who wants Chernomyrdin to explain to the parliament the government's stand on the Russo-Ukrainian documents, which were signed in Kiev by First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets. Lysenko accused him of betraying the national interests of Russia and branded him as a "Ukrainian nationalist".

Duma's Preliminary Vote Approves Draft Statement on Crimea

LD2203113695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1119 GMT 22 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 22 TASS—The State Duma today approved in a preliminary vote drafts of a statement and a resolution on the Ukrainian parliament's decision to proclaim the Constitution and presidency of Crimea null and void.

Work is now underway to finalise the texts ahead of the final vote on the two documents.

The lower house of the Russian legislature says in the statement that "it is seriously worried about prospects for the relationship between Russia and Ukraine in the wake of the adoption by the Ukrainian parliament of resolutions which degrade the expression of the will of the inhabitants of the Republic of Crimea, block the negotiating process between Crimea and Ukraine, and are likely to seriously destabilise the situation in the region."

The draft resolution stresses the need to ask the government of the Russian Federation again to submit to the State Duma the entire package of agreements signed with Ukraine in February and March and invite First Vice-Premier of the Russian Government Oleg Soskovets who led the Russian delegation to talks with Ukraine to inform the State Duma on March 24 on the course of the negotiations and reply to questions in the house.

The resolution proposes that the president of the Russian Federation hold consultations with the government and the Federal Assembly on relations with Ukraine.

Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the house Committee for Commonwealth Affairs who presented the drafts to the State Duma session today, said the Duma members "can turn a blind eye to the politburo swindle involving the giving away of Crimea to Ukraine, but they cannot

turn a blind eye to humiliation of the Crimean population whose will was so utterly ignored".

According to Zatulin, "a moment of truth in the relationship between Russia and Ukraine has come".

Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin told the Committee for Commonwealth Affairs to summarise all critical remarks and proposals made by Duma groups and committees with regard to the texts approved as the basis in order to submit them to the house for consideration later today ahead of the final vote on the documents.

Rybkin also said the State Duma would return to the issue on Friday after the Government of the Russian Federation provided the required information on the problem.

Regional Affairs

Reportage, Commentary on Conflict in Chechnya

Dudayev Said Ready for Dialogue

LD2103150895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1339 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nazran, Mar 21 (Interfax)—The Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev has declared that he has always favored talks and is ready to begin a dialogue on the peaceful settlement of the situation in Chechnya. He made the statement in Shali region (Chechnya) at a meeting with a member of the State Duma (lower house of parliament) Lev Ponomarev (Russia's Choice), the deputy told Interfax in Nazran (Ingushetia) Tuesday.

According to Ponomarev, Dudayev thinks the continuation of the war in Chechnya is harmful for Russia because it is the road towards Russia's disintegration. The Chechen leader also believes that with the beginning of spring Chechen formations will step up activities and new volunteers from other countries and territories will come to Chechnya across opening mountain passes.

Ponomarev brought a letter to Dudayev from the Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council (Russian Senate) Ramazan Abdulatipov inviting him to a dialogue as well as a peace plan worked out by a Moscow conference on March 12.

Dudayev sent two letters with Ponomarev to Abdulatipov: one confidential and the other open.

The open letter claims that for four years the Chechen government stood for a solely peaceful settlement of any disputed matters. Dudayev confirmed his readiness for talks "to move to a peaceful settlement of the conflict on the basis of respect for human rights and liberties, territorial integrity and non-use of force in keeping with international norms."

Russians Increasing 'Onslaught'*LD2103180895 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 21 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Today is the 100th day since the introduction of Russian forces into Chechnya and, judging from reports, the federal forces are increasing their onslaught on towns and villages under the control of Chechen formations. Aircraft and artillery are submitting Argun, Shali, Gudermes, and other villages to the east and southeast of Grozny to powerful fire. Eyewitnesses report that the rumble of artillery does not cease for a minute.

Federal Troops Sealing Off Argun*LD2103174995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1655 GMT 21 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 21 Mar—Today federal troops carried out an operation to seal off an illegal armed formation in the area of Argun, a report by the Russian government press service received by ITAR-TASS says.

According to the mobile information center, the formations and units of the "Sever" [North] group made an assault crossing of the river Argun and are moving along two converging routes to complete the external encirclement ring. The troops have taken the commanding height of Goyten-Kort 10 km south of the town of Argun where the command post of the illegal armed formations was situated, as well as the settlement of Mesker-Yurt, five km southeast of Argun. Federal troops have taken control of the Argun-Gudermes highway and railway. The artillery and aviation of federal troops are striking against the groups of fighters that have been identified.

Chechens Execute Russian Airman*LD2103182195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1740 GMT 21 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Grozny, 21 Mar—The death sentence on Nikolay Bairov, a federal airman, was carried out in Chechnya on Tuesday, Interfax was told by Movladi Udugov, head of Chechnya's information service. According to him, "the airman was sentenced to death for striking at Shali."

M. Udugov claimed that, "according to an announcement from a field court" and the Chechen prosecutor's office, "the commanders of two tactical air units who had ordered air strikes against residential areas in inhabited localities in the Chechen Republic were sentenced to death in their absence."

Lobov Warns of Chechen Terrorism*LD2103191395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1840 GMT 21 Mar 95*

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The bulk of heavy arms of Dudayev's formations has either been destroyed or captured by federal troops. In these circumstances chances increase of making the process of stopping the conflict peaceful and avoiding hostilities in towns and villages, the secretary of the Russian Security Council Oleg Lobov said in an exclusive interview with Interfax. He said the Russian president and government share his belief.

Even though the process of stopping hostilities in Chechnya is changing for the better, Lobov said, the change is slow and the situation in the conflict zone remains tense. He went on to say that federal troops no longer conduct large-scale hostilities in Chechnya. Still a considerable part of this republic of the Russian Federation remains under the influence of unlawful armed formations.

Lobov said Dudayev's militants have Grad installations, mortars which are used on vehicles for the sake of mobility and tanks. However, the Security Council secretary said, not all the vehicles are in operation, some have been transformed into fire points, in particular near Shali. However, the militants now have only 20% of the arms they had initially, Lobov claimed.

Federal troops have captured many arsenals and Dudayev no longer gets big quantities of arms from abroad. Lobov said there remain only criminal cracks in the cordons of the conflict zone.

The official said this is indicated by intercepted radio transmissions in which the rebels constantly appeal to the rest of the world for arms. Simultaneously they are trying to assure the Russian and world public that they are capable of resisting federal troops endlessly. In Lobov's opinion, the declarations are another propaganda trick of Dudayev.

Still he warned against underestimating the threat of terrorism outside Chechnya. "The Russian public should be ready to stop such attempts and remain reasonably vigilant", the Security Council secretary said.

He hopes for a peaceful settlement of the conflict because the voice of civilian groups is becoming increasingly strong in Chechnya. Local government bodies are beginning to function along with the National Revival Government, the provisional State Council and the office of Grozny's mayor. Law enforcement bodies are being revived alongside with the urban economy.

"In a bid to prove the unprovable, the militants' propaganda machine does not shun direct frauds," said Lobov. He referred to the performance which the Dudayev authorities had staged for TV reporters during the military parade in Grozny last summer. The "missiles" demonstrated during the parade were only mock-ups, he said. At one time the Dudayev ideologists argued that the rebellious regime had heavy armaments, including two S-300 air-defense systems. "Naturally, this has nothing to do with the truth," said Lobov. (The S-300

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air-defense complexes capable of hitting targets at a distance of 300-350 kilometers are the most modern air-defense systems with unique tactical and technical characteristics - Interfax). Rumors were circulated that the rebellious general's regime has nuclear weapons, Lobov remarked.

He also spoke about the Dudayev ideologists' attempts to destabilize the political situation in Russia and abroad. He said, for instance, that Dudayev tried to discredit the Russian armed forces and border troops. Reports are being spread that the rebels may obtain weapons from outside, because part of the Russian border guards had been bribed, he said. Neither there is any truth in the Dudayev ideologists' assertions that the FSK leaders are connected with the Dudayev supporters and pro-fascist organizations, he continued. All this is being said for "creating an atmosphere of general mistrust and suspicion in Russian society, comparable only with the depressive atmosphere of the 1930s," said Lobov.

However, one should not underestimate the danger of terrorism coming from outside Chechnya, he went on to say. "Russian society must be ready to curb such attempts, demonstrating reasonable vigilance," he stated.

In his estimate, the voice of the civic bodies is heard ever more clearly in Chechnya, all of which inspires hope for a peaceful settlement of the conflict. Local governments, the Government of National Revival, the Provisional State Council and the Mayoralty of Grozny are beginning to work. Law-enforcement bodies are being shaped and the city life-support systems are being restored, said Lobov.

Chechen Source Confirms Russian Successes

LD2103221595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1928
GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Grozny, Mar 21 (Interfax)—The Chechen command confirmed Tuesday that the Russian troops had taken the strategically important hill Goyten-Kort, near the city Argun, and advanced up to the line Argun-Gudermes.

Head of the Chechen information service, Movladi Udugov, told Interfax over the telephone that "the Russian troops semi-circled the city by the end of the day." Only one approach to Argun is still under control of Chechen militants. Clashes continued on other sections of the frontline, he added.

"The government forces and volunteers in Argun have started to organize circle defense within the city. Those wounded, women and children are rapidly evacuated from the city by the only available road," Udugov said.

Referring to the Chechen command, Udugov said Russian aircraft had continued bombing the cities Shali and

Gudermes and the villages Stariye Atagi, Noviye Atagi, Chechen-Aul, Germenchuk and Mesker-Yurt.

"The Chechen side lost one tank, 14 troops dead and 18 wounded" as a result of clashes Tuesday, Udugov said.

Federal Troops Destroy Ammunition Convoy

LD2103221395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2202
GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok (North Ossetia) Mar 21 (INTERFAX)—Federal troops have destroyed with mortar fire three KamAZ trucks carrying ammunition to Dudayev's militants. The incident took place North of the Darbankhi community 35 kilometers east of Grozny on the road between Gudermes and Shelkovskaya on Tuesday evening.

The press-service of the Russian federal troops command in Chechnya has said the convoy was spotted by a patrol of the OMON assault police unit near the railway bridge across the Terek river.

Dudayev Forces Await Assault on Shali

LD2103221095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2203
GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nazran, Mar 21 (INTERFAX)—Chechen armed detachments loyal to Dzhokhar Dudayev have taken up positions around the town of Shali and are waiting for an offensive from federal troops, an official of the Chechen armed forces' headquarters, Abo Movsayev, has said.

He said that in the course of the offensive against Chechen-Aul last week, federal troops lost 32 armored vehicles and several dozen servicemen were killed. Movsayev says that Russian troops managed to move a mere 500 meters forward in that area.

He said that in the offensive on Argun on March 15 up to 40 Russian armored vehicles were put out of action.

Russians Said To Take Village Near Shali

AU2203084695 Paris AFP in English 0814 GMT 22
Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shali, Russia, March 22 (AFP)—Russian ground forces took a major step towards encircling the Chechen separatist stronghold of Shali on Wednesday by capturing a village to the north, Chechen fighters said.

The Russian troops, fighting to crush a three-year Chechen independence drive, captured the village of Mesker Yurt, about 15 kilometres (nine miles) north of Shali in overnight fighting, said fighters and refugees.

The centre of Shali itself was rocketed mid-morning, with at least three missiles exploding in the middle of a busy street.

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Two Marines Killed in Attack on Argun*LD2203094995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0845 GMT 22 Mar 95**[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Larisa Beloivan]*

[FBIS Translated Text] Vladivostok, 22 Mar—Two more marines of the Pacific Fleet were killed in Chechnya on 21 March. ITAR-TASS has learned from official sources that 29 Pacific Fleet marines have been killed in the Chechen conflict so far.

According to the source, marines of the Pacific Fleet, as part of the Sever grouping of federal troops, made an assault crossing of the Argun River and took positions on its right bank. Two Pacific Fleet marines were killed in the fighting, and one was wounded. Their names have not been disclosed.

Russians Encircle Argun*LD2203094195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0906 GMT 22 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 22 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—The Mobile Information Center reports that the federal troops today completed the operation to seal off illegal armed formations in the area of Argun, says a statement on the situation in the Chechen Republic from the Russian Government press service, received by ITAR-TASS today. According to the information available to the press center of the command of the unified federal forces, by the end of 21 March the units of the north grouping closed the outer ring of encirclement around Argun.

Before midnight on 21 March the illegal armed formations made several attempts to break the encirclement. The troops returned fire and took action to thwart these attempts. After that the personnel and command of the Argun illegal armed formations were forced to abandon their positions.

As of 2300 on 21 March, the federal forces' losses in the operation to seal off Argun were three dead and 17 wounded. There were no losses of hardware.

Russians Deliver 'Crushing Blow'*AU2203112895 Paris AFP in English 1033 GMT 22 Mar 95**[By Sebastian Smith]*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shali, Russia, March 22 (AFP)—Russian forces delivered a crushing blow to Chechen independence forces Wednesday, launching an operation to encircle the main rebel bastion of Shali and rocketing the town centre.

Ground forces advanced into a semi-circle around Shali after capturing the village of Mesker Yurt, 11 kilometres (seven miles) to the north in overnight fighting, Chechen soldiers and civilian refugees said.

The thrust cut off the main road between Shali and another rebel stronghold, Argun, and was clearly part of a manoeuvre to encircle this town, where fighters loyal to President Dzhokhar Dudayev are based.

Russian tanks and infantry control escape routes from Shali to the west and north, while Russian planes and helicopters regularly bomb and strafe roads to the east and south.

The centre of Shali itself was rocketed mid-morning, as refugees crammed their belongings into lorries and joined the exodus towards the mountains in the south.

Two planes flew over the town centre at 10:00 a.m. (0700 GMT), sending soldiers and dozens of civilians scrambling for cover.

The attack came a couple of minutes later, with two salvos of rockets, although it was not clear if they were fired by the planes or from Russian multiple rocket positions about six kilometres outside Shali.

At least three rockets landed in a close pattern on a busy residential street near the centre. It was not immediately clear whether there were casualties, although a woman could be heard screaming.

Federal Command Denies 'Big Losses'*LD2203115495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1030 GMT 22 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNY, Mar 22 (Interfax)—The command of federal troops in Chechnya has described as untrue media reports about big losses of the Russian forces in the operation to block Chechen formations near Argun.

By 23:00 Tuesday the losses of federal troops in Argun were: three killed and 17 wounded, the command report received by Interfax Wednesday says. There was no loss of materiel.

Economic Issues**Economic Program for 1995-97 Previewed***MM2103152895 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Mar 95 p 1*

[Report by Ivan Vladimirov: "Government's Third Attempt. Widening the Horizons of Reform Will Make It Possible To Implement the Socioeconomic Program Contained in the Russian Federation President's Message to the Federal Assembly"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The long-awaited "presentation" of the government's third and relatively long-term (1995-1997) reform program will take place this week.

Work on the new program began last summer, when the need to give new impetus to reform and move from a moderately tough to a tough economic policy had become obvious. In the fall of 1994 Yevgeniy Yasin, the

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chief specialist involved in drawing up the reform programs, was appointed minister of economics. Yasin himself and his deputy—Sergey Vasilyev, a former director of the Economic Reform Working Center—were actually in charge of preparing the program. Work on the program was only completed at the end of last week.

In the political sense the third program since the start of the Gaydar stage is an attempt to widen the horizons of reform, which have of late begun to shrink noticeably as a result of the high social cost of reform. This is also an attempt to prove that engaging any further in half-baked reforms is pointless—without following an extremely tough credit and monetary policy and bearing down on inflation there will be no investment “boom” or economic growth.

Both the timeframe of the program and its content naturally reflect the state of economic reform itself and the difficult political and social situation in Russia. The Gaydar government's first program, as Sergey Vasilyev told your correspondent, was largely ideological, although it did also contain very many new ideas. The second program (in 1993) was more “applied” in nature and, in terms of the big picture, was carried out—if “trivial matters” such as financial stabilization are not taken into account.

In terms of timing, the completion of the work on the program has almost coincided, when it comes to clarifying the current position of the Cabinet of Ministers, with substantial events such as the government and Central Bank joint statement on economic policy in 1995 and the Memorandum of the Consultative Council for Foreign Investment. Above all, it has coincided with the adoption of the budget on its fourth reading, the investment program, and the granting of the IMF loan. These kinds of coincidences are highly symptomatic. And if all the government's plans and promises are kept, we can say that the new program will be a very effective tool of reform.

As is well known, in May the government should submit the draft budget for 1995 to the State Duma. According to preliminary information, the draft will be ideologically “bound up” with the government program. It is of substantial importance that, this time, the budget will not be geared to Western loans. Sergey Vasilyev believes that what is important is the confidence that the world community has in our country, not the fact that Russia obtained a \$6.25-billion loan as a result of a difficult negotiating process.

The government program emphasizes private investment. The main condition for encouraging it, Sergey

Vasilyev believes, is financial stabilization and the lowering of lending risks. Moreover, we need to set up structures to transform the population's savings into investment. Admittedly, an investment “boom” will be impossible without institutional reform and without expanding the normative base for economic transformations. There are certain problems with this, despite the adoption of a number of very important acts—such as Part 1 of the Civil Code.

There is no agrarian section in the government program. This, according to the deputy economics minister, is because land reform has come to a halt as a result of the lack of a legislative base. Without land reform, without the adoption of a Land Code or the liberalization of the land market, or any opportunity to put a market value on land, there will be no agrarian reform.

Tax reform is also being slowed. The reason is the same—the impossibility of putting a market value on land and real estate which could be used as a basis for a new system of taxation. “The lack of a land market is delaying any transformations,” Sergey Vasilyev claims. “There is no long-term lending without mortgages, and there are no mortgages without regulating the status of land.”

In Sergey Vasilyev's opinion, if the program is implemented there will be no need to establish a fixed dollar rate—it will come about of its own accord. So far this problem has not been discussed by the government at all.

The government program, which is large-scale in terms of its goals and the timetable for its implementation, constitutes yet another chance for the full-fledged reform of the still underliberalized, inflationary, and not very creditworthy Russian economy. As ever, implementation of reform programs will be hampered by political circumstances and social discontent—real and imaginary. As usual, the reformers are under severe time pressure. But Russia is already moving down effectively the only road—a liberal road—of economic transformation. And it has to be admitted that nobody apart from the current government has another program which would take account of existing realities and would not be blatantly politicized and populist. The only “shortcoming” of the program preventing it from being consistently implemented is its applied, nonpolitical nature—it cannot be used in an election campaign. It contains no slogans but plans and recipes for reform. Because we know in advance that what could scupper the program would be the populism and pro-inflation irresponsibility of certain influential politicians.

International Affairs

Minister Ends U.S. Visit To Secure Assistance

LD2103195495 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukrainian Economy Minister Roman Shepek has ended his visit to the United States. In the four days there at the invitation of the World Bank, Roman Shepek had many talks with leaders of various international financial organizations and heads of U.S. ministries and departments to secure financial and technological assistance to Ukraine, which will ensure that the agreement on a standby loan by the International Monetary Fund is carried out.

Ministry Reports Clinton To Visit 10 May

WS2203103995 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0043 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, March, 21—United States President Bill Clinton is going to visit Ukraine on May 10, the Foreign Ministry announced on Tuesday [21 March].

Clinton will come to Kiev after he visits Russia on May 9 to take part in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe, said Ministry spokesman Yuriy Serheev.

This decision was confirmed in a "warm letter" from Clinton which was given to Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma by American Ambassador William Miller, said Serheev.

In the letter, Clinton emphasized that the United States will support reforms Kuchma administration reforms, he added.

Presidential Aide Previews Kuchma Visit to Japan

LD2103123495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1121 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Mar 21 (Interfax-Ukraine)—A total of 10 agreements will be signed during the visit of the Ukrainian president to Japan on March 22-25, head of the presidential staff Dmitriy Tabachnik told Interfax-Ukraine.

According to him, a joint statement of President Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama on the key results of the visit should be the most important document.

The statement is expected to express Ukraine's support for Japan's intentions to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

In an earlier interview with Interfax-Ukraine Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko denied rumors that the two countries would issue a joint statement on

prolonging the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. He admitted, though, that the subject would be discussed in Tokyo.

Tabachnik described as the main purpose of the visit long-term cooperation between the two countries, mainly in the area of their economies. The Ukrainian leadership hopes relations with Japan will facilitate trade and production ties with countries in Asia and the Pacific.

According to Tabachnik, the first steps to the strategic aims should be active cooperation in areas of mutual interest: ship-building, iron and steel, the chemical industry.

In Japan Kuchma should meet Emperor Akihito as well as business representatives, including the heads of the Sony and Toyota corporations. In addition to Tokyo he will visit Kyoto and Nagoya.

President Kuchma Departs on Visit to Japan

LD2103194995 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A few minutes ago Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma left Borispol Airport on an official visit to Japan. President Kuchma is due to arrive at Haneda Airport in Tokyo tomorrow afternoon, while the visit will officially begin on 23 March.

In the morning on 23 March, the president will visit the Tokyo stock exchange and meet Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Mechiko. The same day will see Ukrainian-Japanese negotiations attended by Japan's Prime Minister Murayama, which will end with the signing of joint agreements.

Udovenko on Aims of Kuchma Visit

LD2103210595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2138 GMT 21 Mar 95

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Chamara—TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev March 21 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma left for Japan on a three-day official visit on Tuesday evening at the invitation of the Japanese Government. Kuchma will meet with the emperor of Japan, Japanese prime minister Tomiichi Murayama and other officials.

The Ukrainian president is accompanied by Foreign Minister Gennadiy Udovenko, head of the president's administration Dmitriy Tabachnik, vice-prime minister, minister for foreign economic relations Sergey Osypa, secretary of the National Security Council Vladimir Gorbunin, some ministers and chairmen of regional administrations. The Ukrainian officials will meet with their Japanese counterparts.

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Speaking in an exclusive interview with UKRINFORM on Tuesday, Udovenko said that the Ukrainian delegation left for Japan not to discuss financial assistance to Ukraine. The goal of the visit is to give an impetus to Ukrainian-Japanese relations. Japan is a great industrialised country. It is very important for Ukraine to establish close contacts with Japan and strengthen economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation, the minister stressed.

Japanese Chernobyl Aid To Be Announced

MM2203091995 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Mar 95 First Edition p 1

[Report from the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA/ITAR-TASS column: "Japan To Help Chernobyl"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Japanese Government will be granting Ukraine \$200 million through the country's Export-Import Bank to shut down the Chernobyl AES [nuclear electric power station] and renew equipment at other nuclear power stations.

This is expected to be officially announced during forthcoming talks between Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. Japan, along with other G-7 countries, has long advocated the closure of the Chernobyl AES following the accident there in 1986.

Kuchma Aims To Strengthen Economic Ties

LD2103145195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1408 GMT 21 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev March 21 TASS—"Ukraine regards the development of relations with Japan as a leading strategic area of its foreign policy," Yuriy Sergeyev, head of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Information Directorate, told a news conference here on Tuesday [21 March] which was timed to coincide with a three-day visit by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma to Japan.

"The understanding by Tokyo of Ukraine's important place in Europe, international politics and potentially in the economy is an earnest of Japan's efficient support for the course of the Ukrainian leadership for reforms," he continued.

The Ukrainian leader departs for Tokyo this evening. His visit will start with the opening ceremony of the Ukrainian Embassy in Japan.

The visit programme provides for Kuchma's meetings with the Japanese emperor, the prime minister, the parliamentary association of the Japanese-Ukrainian friendship and captains of Japanese industry.

The Ukrainian president does not go to Japan "for a sack of cash", Sergeyev stressed. "The main aim of the visit is to step up bilateral trade and economic relations," the spokesman noted.

At the same time, he reported that the Japanese Government took a decision to extend 200 million U.S. dollars to Ukraine for a closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and for construction of alternative sources of energy.

According to the spokesman, this will be officially announced during Kuchma's talks with Japanese Premier Tomiichi Murayama.

Russian Defense Ministry Delegation Arrives in Kiev

LD2103180695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1734 GMT 21 Mar 95

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Balykov for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev March 21 TASS—A Russian Defence Ministry delegation has arrived in Kiev on a working visit, the press service of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry said on Tuesday [21 March].

The two sides will discuss prospects for the development of bilateral relations between the Russian and Ukrainian defence ministries and the preparation of a large-scale treaty on friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Soskovets: Solutions Emerging to Black Sea Fleet Issue

LD2103193595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1838 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev March 21 ITAR-TASS—"The Russian and Ukrainian military are finding mutually acceptable formulations to the issue of the basing and status of the Black Sea Fleet," Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets told reporters.

Soskovets leads a Russian delegation to the meeting now held in Kiev to prepare the Russian-Ukrainian summit.

Russia's key tasks are "retention of the fleet, formulation of the status of its Russian part and hoisting the Russian flag on Russian ships", Soskovets said.

The deputy prime minister admits that the negotiation on the fleet "has a very complicated and difficult progress". According to Soskovets, different political forces of both sides are interfering in this process, with bids to decide the matter brushing aside any appropriateness of expertise in dealing with this sensitive issue.

Nonetheless, Soskovets said, foot dragging over the fleet issue would only aggravate it.

"We intend to polish the text of the declaration on Black Sea Fleet division before the official visit of the Russian president to Kiev," Soskovets said.

'Little Chance' of Breakthrough in Black Sea Fleet Talks

LD2103151395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1339 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Mar 21 (Interfax-Ukraine)—There is little chance of a breakthrough in Kiev-Moscow talks on sharing out the Black Sea Fleet (BSF), sources close to the Ukrainian delegation say.

The two sides met in Kiev earlier in the day on Tuesday [21 March].

The meeting involved Deputy Ukrainian Defense Minister Ivan Bizhan and Commander of the Ukrainian Navy Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy, and Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy Feliks Gromov and Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Yuriy Dubinin, once the country's chief negotiator on the BSF issue.

The meeting produced nothing but a 15-line protocol, Bezkorovaynyy told Interfax-Ukraine after the talks.

He said this outlines a set of issues the two sides are expected to try to clear within the next two weeks or so.

Earlier, the Russian delegation proposed that a broader declaration and an accompanying protocol be signed on the principles of sharing out the BSF including a list of facilities to be divided.

Moscow also wants the Russian navy to be deployed in Sevastopol and the Ukrainian navy at Donuzlav.

Kiev 'Inclined' To Lease Sevastopol to Russia

LD2103165195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1536 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 21 Mar—"Ukraine is inclined to lease Sevastopol to the Russian Federation," Colonel General Ivan Bizhan, deputy defense minister of Ukraine, told journalists here today. However, he also said that lease conditions and dates have not been finalized yet. "These matters will be spelled out in the final text of the declaration on the division of the Black Sea Fleet," Bizhan said.

Meshkov Asks Russia To 'Exert Pressure' on Kiev

LD2203092195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0614 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 22 Mar—On the evening of 21 March, Yuriy Meshkov, president of the Republic of Crimea, sent a message to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the deputies of the Russian Federal Assembly, and the people of Russia in connection with the Ukrainian parliament's decision to rescind the republic's constitution and abolish the institution of the

presidency, an ITAR-TASS correspondent has been told over the telephone from Simferopol by Aleksandr Spakhov, an aide to the Crimean president. Spakhov read out the text of the message, which says that in its decisions on Crimea "the Ukrainian Supreme Council has unilaterally violated, from its position of force, the universally accepted standards and principles of international law.... These actions are seen by the citizens of Crimea as unlawful, forcible, and aimed at a gradual elimination of the foundation of statehood of the Republic of Crimea."

The Crimean president asked Russia's top leadership "to exert pressure on the Ukrainian leadership to conclude a wide-scale treaty between the Republic of Crimea and Ukraine in accordance with the constitution of the Republic of Crimea," and "to use to the maximum, Russia's authority on the international scene to ensure a normalization of relations between the Republic of Crimea and Ukraine."

Ministry on Crimean Parliament's Appeal to Russia

LD2103124595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1121 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Mar 21 (Interfax - Ukraine)—The Crimean parliament's appeal to the Russian president to send consulate missions to a number of Crimean cities for documenting Russian citizenship goes against Ukrainian law, said the Ukrainian Ministry of Justice.

The Ministry also explained Monday that this fact "points to the Crimean authorities' plans to introduce dual citizenship in Crimea."

"The problem of dual citizenship in Crimea is not within the competence of the Crimean authorities, because the Autonomous Republic of Crimea is an administrative and territorial entity of Ukraine," says the Ministry's statement.

The document also says that in accordance with the law on citizenship in Ukraine, a Ukrainian citizen cannot be a citizen of another country. "The said legal norms reflect the reality, and the interests of the state and the people of Ukraine. No one can violate them," says the statement.

Tsekov Appeals to OSCE Over Situation With Ukraine

LD2103175095 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1620 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol—Crimea's Supreme Council Chairman Serhiy Tsekov has appealed to Slavomyr Dabrova, deputy head of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE] mission in Ukraine, and Dominic Sodan, the mission's branch

representative in Crimea, asking them to raise the issue of Ukrainian-Crimean relations at the OSCE.

During the meeting, Mr. Tsekov and the OSCE officials discussed the effect of the Ukrainian parliament's decisions of 17 March concerning Crimea. The Crimean speaker stressed that the republic's leadership does not want any conflict, as "this conflict would unfold on Crimean territory," and spoke in favor of settling all disputed issues by legal means.

Mr. Dabrova invited Mr. Tsekov to attend a seminar on Ukrainian-Crimean relations to be held on 11-14 May in Locarno, Switzerland. The invitation was also extended to Crimea's Prime Minister Anatoliy Franchuk, as well as parliament deputies Oleh Kyrilov and Refat Chubarov.

Georgia Will Expand Economic Cooperation

LD2103164395 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1530 GMT
21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received]—On 21 March the government delegations of Ukraine and Georgia headed respectively by Petro Sabluk, Ukrainian first deputy prime minister, and Georgian Deputy Prime Minister Bakur Gulua discussed the need to search for the best ways of implementing the intergovernmental protocol on the development of trade and economic cooperation signed during the Ukrainian president's visit to the Republic of Georgia.

UNIAN was told this during a news conference at the cabinet of ministers. The government delegations discussed the possibility of delivering about 1.5 million decaliters of wine, 2,500 tonnes of tea, and about 1 million decaliters of "Borjomi" water. Ukraine intends to deliver 600,000 decaliters of spirits as well as agricultural produce.

They also discussed the possibility of setting up direct contacts between the Georgian and Ukrainian agriculture ministries and implementing an agreement on cooperation in manufacturing. Petro Sabluk stressed the need to set up joint financial-industrial groups.

According to Bakur Gulua, Georgia's situation is worse than Ukraine's because its railway lines are practically blocked. The Georgian deputy prime minister noted the importance of searching for ways of transporting goods, particularly from Ukraine.

The relevant working groups were set up which will coordinate the Ukrainian and Georgian positions on mutually favorable trade and economic cooperation.

Armenian Parliament Speaker Discusses Cooperation

AU2103195495 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian
17 Mar 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "A Dialogue Between Ukraine and Armenia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 15 March, Babken Ararktsyan, chairman of the Armenian Supreme Council, started his official visit to Ukraine. At Boryspil Airport, the guest was welcomed by Oleksandr Tkachenko, first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council; Borys Oliynyk, chairman of the Supreme Council Commission for Foreign Affairs and Ties With the CIS, and other officials.

Babken Ararktsyan made a statement for the press in which he pointed out, in particular, this: "Our nations help each other in most difficult times. Let us at least recall the terrible earthquake that caused so much suffering to our country. Ukrainian rescuers were the first to arrive in Armenia to help. We would like the political, economic, and cultural relations that have historically existed between our states to further intensify. Do not forget that our nations are spiritually related."

Yesterday [16 March], Oleksandr Moroz, chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council, received Babken Ararktsyan. The Armenian parliament chairman invited Oleksandr Moroz to visit his country in the near future in order to expedite the signing of the interparliamentary agreement on friendship and cooperation.

In the course of the meeting, problems with which the states are confronted during the formation of their national budgets, the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, the prospects for opening Ukraine's Embassy in the Armenian Republic, and so on were discussed. The heads of the parliaments stressed the need for our states to develop cooperation, pointed to the fact that the citizens of both Ukraine and Armenia are insufficiently informed about the internal political and economic processes. In particular, it was proposed that journalist delegations be exchanged.

National Affairs

Text of 17 Mar Law Abolishing Crimean Constitution

WS2103133095 Kiev VYBIR in English 0839 GMT 21
Mar 95

[Ukrainian law "On the Abolition of the Constitution and Certain Laws of Crimea" issued in Kiev on 17 March—from the "Ukraine in Documents" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In connection with nonobservance by the Crimean Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian Supreme Council resolutions of 22 September and 17 November 1994 on placing the Crimean constitution and laws in compliance with the constitution and laws of Ukraine, and also to provide supremacy of the constitution and laws of Ukraine on entire territory of Ukraine, to protect the state sovereignty of Ukraine pursuant to Section 31, Article 97 of the constitution of Ukraine, the Supreme Council of Ukraine resolves:

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To abolish the Crimean Constitution passed by the Crimean Supreme Soviet on 6 May 6 1992 with subsequent additions and amendments, and to cancel the Crimean laws "On the Elections of the President of Crimea" of 17 September 1993, "On the President of Crimea" of 14 October 1993, "On Restoration of the Constitutional Foundations of the Crimean Statehood" of 20 May 1994, "On the Constitutional Court of Crimea" of 8 September, 1994, "On the Elections of Soviets in Crimea" of 18 January 1995 with additions and amendments of 10 March 1995 as such that run counter to Articles 31, 70, 71, 75-1, 77, 112, 149, 150 of the Constitution of Ukraine.

[Signed] President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma

[Date] Kiev, 17 March 1995

Supreme Council Resolution on Abolition of Crimean Laws

WS2103133895 Kiev VYBIR in English 0839 GMT 21 Mar 95

[Supreme Council resolution "On Enactment of Ukraine's Law 'On Abolition of the Constitution and Certain Laws of Crimea'" issued in Kiev on 17 March— from the "Ukraine in Documents" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ukrainian Supreme Council resolves:

1. To enact Ukraine's law "On Abolition of the Constitution and Certain Laws of Crimea" on the day of its publishing.
2. Until the adoption of a new constitution of Crimea, the latter's status will be regulated by the Constitution and laws of Ukraine.
3. To establish that the legal acts adopted pursuant to the Crimean constitution will act in the part not contradicting the Constitution and laws of Ukraine.
4. To consider as legitimate the Crimean Supreme Soviet and Government.
5. The Ukrainian and Crimean Governments shall suspend financing the Crimean executive bodies set up pursuant to the laws running counter to the Constitution and laws of Ukraine.

[Signed] Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz.

[Dated] Kiev, 17 March, 1995.

Decree on Implementing Resolutions Abolishing Crimean Laws

WS2103142395 Kiev VYBIR in English 0839 GMT 21 Mar 95

[Supreme Council resolution: On fulfillment of the Ukrainian Supreme Council resolutions "On Suspending the Force of the Crimean Law 'On Restoration

of the Constitutional Foundations of Crimean Statehood,'" "On the Political and Legislative Situation in Crimea," and "On Fulfillment of the Ukrainian Supreme Council resolution 'On Political and Legislative Situation in Crimea'" issued in Kiev on 17 March— from the "Ukraine in Documents" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Having considered the issue on fulfilling the Ukrainian Supreme Council resolutions on political and legislative situation in Crimea, the Ukrainian Supreme Council reports about inadequate observance of the Constitution and laws of Ukraine in Crimea.

Despite the fact that the Ukrainian Supreme Council passed the resolutions "On Suspending the Force of the Crimean Law 'On Restoration of the Constitutional Foundations of the Crimean Statehood'" of 20 May 1994, "On Fulfillment of the Ukrainian Supreme Council Resolution of 24 February 1994 'On the Status of Crimea Pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of Ukraine'", "On Political and Legislative Situation in Crimea" of 22 September, 1994, "On Political-legal Situation in Crimea" of 17 November 1994, the Crimean Supreme Soviet failed to place the Crimean Constitution and laws into compliance with the Constitution and laws of Ukraine.

President of Crimea Y. Meshkov often grossly violated the Constitution and laws of Ukraine.

In particular, several decrees issued by Meshkov were aimed at changing the existing system of power formation and functioning in the Republic. Given this and being governed by Articles 71, 97 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Supreme Council resolves:

1. Pursuant to Section 31, Article 97 of the Constitution of Ukraine, to abolish the Crimean parliament's resolutions "On Regional Division of the State Property Fund of Ukraine in Crimea" and "On the Facilities of State Ownership in Crimea and the Property of All-Union Public Organizations in Crimea" as such that contradict the Constitution of Ukraine and its laws "On Ownership," "On Privatization of State Enterprises," as well as the president's decree of 19 February 1994 "On the Single System of Privatization Bodies in Ukraine."
2. The National Bank of Ukraine shall enhance its control and managerial functions relating to the Crimean Republican Bank and all commercial banks in order to properly observe the law "On Banks and Banking Activities."
3. The Government of Ukraine, together with the Crimean Government, shall compile an inventory of all land reserves in the Crimea and draft a program on settlement and employment of the Crimean Tatars.
4. By 1 May 1995, the Government of Ukraine shall consider the issue of monetary maintenance of servicemen and workers of the Ukrainian law enforcement

bodies to provide their social protection. Such maintenance should be comparable in real terms with that of the Black Sea Fleet personnel.

5. The Ministry of Justice, together with the Ministries of Defense, Foreign Affairs, Economics and Finance, shall, by 10 April 1995 draw up a draft agreement between Ukraine and the Russian Federation concerning the legal status of the Black Sea Fleet and its servicemen that have Russian citizenship and stay on territory of Ukraine, and also determine the amount of compensation to the Ukrainian national budget.

6. The General Procurator's Office of Ukraine, the State Property Fund, the Interior Ministry, and the Security Service of Ukraine shall, by 1 May 1995 examine the observance of Ukrainian laws in Crimea pertaining to privatization and acquisition of real estate by foreign commercial structures, as well as the sales of the Black Sea Fleet property.

7. Ukraine's Ministries of Justice, Interior and Foreign Affairs shall, by 10 April 1995, take due measures in order to adequately react to violations of the law of Ukraine "On Citizenship of Ukraine" in Crimea and make proposals on amending the said law on the basis of international experience.

They should also submit the proposals on travel of lawmakers and other state officials within the CIS.

8. The Interior Ministry, the Security Service, the Defense Ministry and the National Guard, together with the General Procurator's Office of Ukraine shall take urgent measures on enhancing the struggle against organized crime and illegal military detachments in Ukraine.

9. Procurator-General of Ukraine, pursuant to the president's decree of 21 February 1995, saying that the Crimean president's decrees of 6 September 1994 "On Appointment of Heads of the State Executive Bodies in Crimea" and "On Organization of the State Administration in Crimea During the Referendum on the Crimean Constitution" and "On the Heads of Administrations" contradict Article 75-1 of the Constitution of Ukraine, Article 14 of said constitution, also the laws of Ukraine "On Local Councils and Self-government" and "Formation of Local Self-government Bodies," also that they lead to a liquidation of democratic principles of power formation in Ukraine, also taking into account gross violations of the Ukrainian Constitution and law, shall consider the issue on initiating the proceedings against Y. Meshkov, whose actions have the features of crime stipulated By Article 166 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of Ukraine (abuse of power).

10. To recommend President Kuchma to abolish the illegal acts of the executive bodies of the Crimea that run counter to the Constitution and law of Ukraine.

11. A temporary legislative commission will continue its study of the political and juridical situation in Crimea.

12. Control over fulfillment of this resolution will be exercised by the Supreme Council Presidium.

[Signed] Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz.

[Dated] Kiev, 17 March 1995.

Crimea Instructed To Prepare New Constitution

LD2103172795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1700 GMT 21 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 21 Mar—The Ukrainian parliament has instructed the Supreme Council of the Republic of Crimea to submit before the 15 May the autonomy's new draft constitution for approval in Kiev. This decision was adopted by deputies at the Ukrainian parliament's plenary meeting today.

Parliament To Debate Motion of No Confidence in Cabinet

LD2103173195 Kiev UNIA in Ukrainian 1610 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kiev, 21 Mar—Ukraine's Supreme Council has put on the agenda the issue of no confidence in the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. According to [parliamentary] regulations, this issue should be discussed within five days of it being submitted, but in practice it will only take place in April.

During a discussion of this issue the speakers came out in support of expressing no confidence precisely today (Serhiy Sobolyev from the Reform group, Vasyl Korneyuk from the Agrarian group, Mykola Zavarzin and Volodymyr Moyseyenko from the Communists group).

Yevhen Smyrnov (from the Reform group) submitted a proposal to "raise the issue of removing President Kuchma from his post in accordance with article 114-9 of the Ukrainian constitution as a person who is directly to blame for the government's actions." The proposal was withdrawn, but Mr. Smyrnov reserved the right to return to the issue in April.

The Supreme Council approved a resolution on the unsatisfactory social protection of the population. [passage omitted]

Crimean Delegation Arrives in Kiev

LD2103202895 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1930 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—A Crimean Government delegation arrived in Kiev today, leaving behind Crimean Prime Minister Anatoliy Franchuk, who has contracted pneumonia and is in Simferopol. Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz told UNIAN today.

Crimean Government officials will take part in parliamentary deliberations on the state budget of Ukraine for 1995, to be held on 22 March.

Kuchma Preparing Decree on Crimean Government Takeover

LD2103203395 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1930 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has drawn up a decree to resubordinate the Crimean autonomous republic's government to the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, UNIAN learnt from confidential sources on 21 March.

Interviewed by UNIAN on the same day, Supreme Council of Ukraine Chairman Oleksandr Moroz said: "Just as he did with heads of oblasts by a decree in August of last year, the president may personally take over the government of Crimea. Should any additional legislation be required in connection with this, the parliament of Ukraine will provide it."

Oleksandr Moroz told the Supreme Council session that he had two conversations with Leonid Kuchma on 21 March, in which the president confirmed that he intends to determine the status of Crimea's government in an appropriate decree.

Supreme Council Rejects Harsher Measures in Crimea

LD2103214495 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1930 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—Ukraine's Supreme Council today rejected a motion to abolish further resolutions and legislative acts by the Supreme Council of Crimea. These, in particular, are the resolutions "on matters concerning open economy arrangements," and "on progress in implementing the Supreme Council of Crimea resolution 'On compulsory military service by Republic of Crimea citizens.'" The Ukrainian parliament's draft also proposed the invalidation of the law "on elections to the Supreme Council of Crimea," and the constitutional law "on the Crimean government."

It also suggested that the Ukrainian president should determine the extent of the Crimean government's powers and the mechanism of relations between the Crimean government and Ukrainian state executive authorities, until a new Crimean constitution is carried into effect, and the Crimean laws are brought into line with that constitution.

It was decided that this draft should be finalized by the parliamentary commission studying the political situation and legal status of Crimea.

Tsekov on International 'Forceful Intervention'

LD2103212395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1852 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, Mar 21 (Interfax-Ukraine)—Crimean Parliament Speaker Sergey Tsekov

believes the international community has all the grounds for "a forceful intervention" into the conflict between Kiev and Simferopol.

At a news conference in Simferopol Tuesday [21 March], he said the present conflict caused by last Friday's Ukrainian parliament resolutions to abolish the Crimean constitution and presidency "is not an internal matter of Ukraine because these resolutions were adopted in violation of human rights".

Tsekov said the Crimean parliament would not respond until the resolutions were put to a test by international organizations.

He said that the Crimean constitution of May 6, 1992 was meanwhile in force.

The speaker called for calm and restraint adding that the regional parliament would not yield to any hysteria.

Asked about possible economic sanctions on the part of Ukraine, Tsekov said "there has been no economic blockade of Crimea yet".

Meshkov 'Will Resign' If Kiev Uses Force

LD2103223595 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskv in Russian 2040 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ukrainian parliament has made incumbent upon Crimea's Supreme Council to submit the autonomy's draft new constitution by 15 May for approval by Kiev.

This decision was adopted by deputies of the Ukrainian parliament. In addition, they granted the Crimean prosecutor the right to appeal against all the legal acts adopted by the Crimean government which contradict the Ukrainian Constitution.

In an interview to our radio station Meshkov, the president of Crimea, stressed that if Kiev attempts to solve the Crimean issue by force he will resign as president.

Today Meshkov voluntarily handed in his personal weapon; thus he fulfilled the official order by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine.

Legislative Performance Evaluated

954F1788A Kiev MOST in Russian No 10, 13-19 Mar 95 p 6

[Article by Vyacheslav Pikhovshek: "The Ukrainian Parliament: Chaos as a Form of Stability"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The further it goes, the more reminiscent to a certain extent the Ukrainian parliament is of a transparent formation whose capacity for decisionmaking appears on each occasion increasingly problematical. This is a very interesting parliament and a real treasure house for political scientists (less) and psychoanalysts (more), in which the people's elect are forced to

perform, by turns, several roles simultaneously: the role of representatives of the regions, where kindergartens that have been built and sewerage that has been installed are still a guarantee of re-election, the role of figures of political parties, each of which is trying to a certain extent to preserve its uniqueness, not duplicating its parliamentary neighbors, and member of commissions of the Supreme Council, onto which the deputies force themselves independently, subjectively determining "who is capable and of what." The conflict in the position of the individual deputy, who is forced to "shake loose" subsidies for his constituency, not foregoing party principles and undertaking law-making work in a sphere, say, of the economy providing for the creation of national laws, is not that infrequent a situation and is not exhausting only for those whose deputyship is putting off a potential prosecution.

I would emphasize immediately that I am not referring to some specific people's deputy here inasmuch as judicial sentences are something for some time in the future, the vague future, what is more. But what is common for the Supreme Council, despite it being split according to thousands of characteristics and motivations, is the common dissatisfaction with the press, which, from the viewpoint of many factions of deputies, is covering inadequately the activity of the Supreme Council. This discontent is justified to some extent: the press, like society also, is tired of waiting for reforms, tired of waiting for the Supreme Council to define its position on all that is "painful"—the Office of the President, the broadcasting of sessions in full—and occupy itself with what, in fact, it should be occupying itself—laws.

The speaker of the Supreme Council has his counter-evidence on this argument also—the number of laws adopted by this "post-Plyushch" Supreme Council. There are others also—the Supreme Council has shown that it can be united, having stood in the president's way repeatedly, as it did in regard to the edict on financial and industrial groups, for example.

The words of Deputy Yelyashevich to the effect that this edict was of a lobbying nature spotlighted one further aspect of the activity of the Supreme Council—the opposition of the Supreme Council and the administration could be switched to a more constructive debate, to the field of laws. At the same time this "constructivization" needs something more, namely, a reconsideration of both the "edict-issuing activity" of the president of Ukraine and of the "law-making activity" of the Supreme Council.

According to current Ukrainian legislation, the president is entitled to issue edicts on matters that are not regulated by law. An interesting snare has been set here—there are matters that are regulated by law, and the president is not permitted to intervene in them—he has the right of legislative initiative, which the Supreme Council may "kill" at hearings in commissions, and the Supreme Council not only adopts but, given the absence of a constitutional court, explains the laws.

If it is recalled for whom laws were made by the past Supreme Council and who shied away from the word "market" and if account is taken of today's divided state of parliament, it is clear that the marketeers and anti-marketeers are either not in a position to formulate their own concerted decision or have been forced to transgress the laws. Formally the president is in breach of a law of Ukraine—the Land Code—with his edict providing for privatization of the land, but without this privatization the formation of a land market is altogether impossible.

An even more delicate situation shapes up with the president's edict concerning financial and industrial groups, which formally violates several dozen clauses of Ukrainian legislation. In addition, the president behaves quite freely with the forms of ownership inasmuch as some of the facilities on the basis of which it is intended to form the financial and industrial groups no longer belong to the state. The arguments of both sides deserve attention here—the president is right to say that "financial and industrial groups mean the preservation of jobs" (although whether this is the sole and optimum path has yet to be debated), and V. Suslov, member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council, is also right to emphasize the president's breach of legislation.

In view of this, the situation concerning the adoption of market legislation would appear considerably more profound and serious than both permanent parties to the chronic conflict "between the two branches" are attempting to present it. On the one hand the president has been forced in the market reforms, without acknowledging this publicly, to violate anti-market legislation, and the legislators are left to exult, yet again catching the president out in its violation.

The conflict could be resolved were the Supreme Council and the president to act according to the laws of the passionate Ukrainian song "God, give us unity," but not even avowed optimists are counting on this. An approximate list of matters for consideration by the Supreme Council of Ukraine in February 1995, approved by parliament, shows the traffic direction for which the legislators have opted.

This list is simply astonishing. Here are just some of the economic questions proposed for consideration: "The State Program of Privatization for 1995" and, alongside this, "Specification of the List of Enterprises Not Subject to Privatization in Particular Branches of the National Economy," "The Draft Law of Ukraine on Personal Income Tax," "The Insufficiency Line," "The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Rendering Account of Provision of the Population of Ukraine (Particularly the Socially Unprotected Strata) With Medical Preparations," "The Draft Law of Ukraine on the State Budget of Ukraine for 1995," "National Bank of Ukraine Estimates for 1995," "Credit Policy of the National Bank of Ukraine in 1995," "The Draft Law of Ukraine 'On Revisions and Addenda to the Law of the Ukrainian SSR' "Budget System of the Ukrainian SSR," "The Draft Law of

Ukraine on Revisions and Addenda to the Law of Ukraine 'Banks and Banking,'" "Revisions and Addenda to the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine 'Stamp Tax' (To Differentiate the Amount of Tax in a Contract of Sale of Plots of Land Owned by the Citizens)," "Concept of Tax Policy in Ukraine," "The Draft Law of Ukraine on Privileges for Taxpayers in Ukraine," "The Draft Law of Ukraine on the National Bank," "The Draft Law of Ukraine on Currency Regulation and Currency Control," and others. Together with these—questions concerning education, giving, tourism, and international treaties. And all these together are quite important matters.

At first sight the deputies have determined upon quite a large "work front." But it has to be seen that it is proposed henceforward also to develop the old socialist legislative system, which proved many times over the conceptual incapacity for operating under the conditions of the market. Only the populist deputy or the member of the people's elect who still desires the "shining future" cannot or does not want to understand that provisional legislation which ensures a smooth transition from the command-administrative system to democracy has to emerge for a short time between the old communist and the future capitalist market legislation.

In view of this, the kind of matters that the deputies are not about to discuss is no less important also. Let us illustrate this if only by one example—regulation of labor compensation in industry. Hourly compensation, and under the conditions of hidden unemployment and part-time employment this is just about the most important question, and the delineation of the state budget and the budget of state-run enterprises, and such delineation is a condition of enterprise privatization, will not be discussed. Abstract postulates based on the "eternity" of the command-administrative economic system, as emerges even from the draft law "On the Budget System," will be discussed instead.

The instinctive or conscious refusal to adopt provisional, albeit not ideal, laws is most likely a characteristic feature of today's corps of deputies. An inchoate majority and constant violations of the standing orders not only in regard to economic but also political matters are creating the constant stalemate situation in which the Supreme Council of Ukraine lives.

The questions of economic laws, the problem of new elections for the "semi-deputy-elected" speaker and his deputies—all these are questions of the same category. Different deputies and different factions cannot reach agreement on the majority of matters of principle. Parliament's factional structure is not contributing to the productive work of the deputies. Ninety-one communists, 27 "Rukhites," 37 centrists, 50 agrarians, 36 reformers, 29 state absolutists, 34 representatives of the Unity group, 32 representatives of the Inter-Regional Group of Deputies, 36 nonfaction individuals, some of

whom are now forming a new group—all this lends color to the parliamentary breakdown while changing essentially nothing.

How possible is the unification on tactical issues of six factions and groups—"Rukhites," centrists, reformers, state absolutists, the Unity group, and the Interregional Group of Deputies—if only on the question of new elections for the leadership of the Supreme Council? Merely the fact that the deputies have managed to raise the question of the Supreme Council Presidium rendering account may in itself be seen as a big achievement under the conditions of the divided parliament. But will the process of harmonization of political positions continue and can the deputies of the Six reach agreement concerning new candidates for the positions of leaders of the Supreme Council?

The chances of such unification are still great, and not only because the members of parliament cannot agree concerning personnel changes. One gets the impression that the uncertainty of the situation, when the left-wing Presidium does not represent the actual alignment of forces in the meeting hall, is beneficial in its own way to each faction. It is beneficial to the national democrats, who acquire constant opportunities for attacking the left, it is beneficial to the left in a demonstration of its leaders' confrontation with the president, and it is beneficial to the president also inasmuch as even the direct broadcasting of the Supreme Council session makes the deputies a target for vilification. The president is suited even more than the others by the current situation inasmuch as it allows L. Kuchma, in fact, to obtain greater freedom of action in "edict-making." But both the president and the reformers in parliament should see that the Supreme Council's paralyzing of the president's increasingly radical and specific steps, the adoption of the law on power included, will be an increasingly serious threat to the reforms. And while the election law according to which the deputies were elected—an odd mixture of the *de jure* Soviet and *de facto* multiparty election systems—continues to play its game, the deputies are, by turns, representatives of the regions, figures of political parties, and, sometimes, legislators also.

Public Meeting in Support of Reunification

954F1809A Simferopol KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 16 Mar 95 p 1

[G. Staroverov report: "For the Revival of a United Motherland"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A demonstration of people of Sevastopol devoted to the fourth anniversary of the all-Union referendum, at which the people of the USSR said "yes" to a unified state, was held under this motto in Nakhimov Square. It was organized by the Russian Party, the All-Crimea Voters Movement, the Republican Movement of Crimea/Republican Party of Crimea, the Women's League, the Teachers Union, the Slavic Duma of Crimea, and other grassroots organizations.

The speeches and the resolution that was adopted said that there is no higher honor for each person of the former USSR than to fight for our united state. The participants in the demonstration appealed to all inhabitants of Crimea, Ukraine, Russia, and Belorussia to initiate active aggressive work on denunciation of the Belovezha agreements by the parliaments of all the former 15 fraternal republics. It is essential to concentrate all forces and heartfelt enthusiasm on the unification in 1995-1996 of Russia, Ukraine, and Belorussia in a Union of Slav States and then on the voluntary affiliation to them of other republics of the former Soviet Union.

The demand for preservation of a united Black Sea Fleet as a guarantor of the sure defense of the southern borders of our united fatherland was heard at the demonstration. The participants in the demonstration opposed hostilities and bloodshed on the territory of the former USSR. Only the peaceful resolution of all conflicts is the key to successful economic and political reforms.

Meshkov Edicts Repealing Economic Decrees

954F1773B Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Mar 95 p 2

[Edicts of the president of the Republic of Crimea under the rubric "Official Department"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Edict of the President of the Republic of Crimea on Repealing Crimean Government Decree No. 315 Dated 29 December 1994

On 29 December 1994 the Crimean Government issued a decree in which it incorrectly supported the proposal to create the privately held joint-stock company East-Crimea Power Generation Company, whose founders are several state enterprises.

This decree of the Crimean Government is in conflict with the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Decree "On Regulating Activities of Subjects of Entrepreneurial Activities Formed With the Participation of State Enterprises," dated 31 December 1992, which stipulates that state enterprises cannot act as founders of commercial structures.

Based on the above and in keeping with Article 8 of the Republic of Crimea law "On the President,"

I decree:

1. Crimean Government Decree No. 315, dated 29 December 1994, is hereby repealed on grounds of not being in conformance with the respective Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine decree.

2. This edict becomes effective the day it is signed.

[Signed] President of the Republic of Crimea Yu. Meshkov

Simferopol

28 February 1995

No. 15/95

Edict of the President of the Republic of Crimea on Crimean Government Decree No. 34, Dated 2 February 1995

On 2 February 1995 the Crimean Government issued a decree in which it incorrectly resolved the question of privatizing state property.

This decree of the Crimean Government is in conflict with Point 4 of Article 4 and Article 10 of the Ukrainian law "On Privatizing the Property of State Enterprises" and Crimean Supreme Council Decree No. 156-1, dated 25 September 1991, "On the 1992 State (Republic of Crimea) Program of Privatizing the Property of State Enterprises," in keeping with which privatization of state property owned by the Republic of Crimea is implemented in keeping with the republic program of privatization approved by the Crimean Supreme Council, in connection with which sales of any facilities of republic or municipal ownership involving a change in the form of ownership have been suspended.

Based on the above and in keeping with Article 8 of the Republic of Crimea law "On the President of the Republic of Crimea,"

I decree:

Crimean Government Decree No. 34, dated 2 February 1995, "On Conducting on an Experimental Basis Auctions To Sell Unfinished Facilities" is hereby repealed on grounds of not being in conformance with the Ukrainian law "On Privatizing the Property of State Enterprises" and Crimean Supreme Council Decree No. 156-1, dated 25 September 1991, "On 1992 State Program of Privatizing the Property of State Enterprises."

[Signed] President of the Republic of Crimea Yu. Meshkov

Simferopol

6 March 1995

No. 22/95

Edict of the President of the Republic of Crimea on the Crimean Government Decree No. 16, Dated 19 January 1995

On 19 January 1995 the Crimean Government issued Decree No. 16 "On Procedures of Paying for Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs," in which it instructed the State Property Fund of Crimea, jointly with the Crimean Ministry of Justice, to develop a mechanism for canceling lease agreements with leased trade enterprises in arrears and a mechanism for alienating a share of property to be used as repayment of debt to product suppliers. This decree is in conflict with Article 29 of the

Ukrainian law "On Leasing Property of State Enterprises," which stipulates that the only basis for canceling a lease agreement is expiration of the term of the agreement, a buy-out, destruction of the leased facility, or a court ruling in the event the parties fail to fulfill their obligations.

Based on the above and in keeping with Article 8 of the Republic of Crimea law "On the President of the Republic of Crimea,"

I decree:

Crimean Government Decree No. 16, dated 19 January 1995, "On Procedures of Paying for Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs" is hereby repealed on grounds of not being in conformance with the Ukraine law "On Leasing Property of State Enterprises."

[Signed] President of the Republic of Crimea Yu. Meshkov

Simferopol

6 March 1995

No. 24/95

Meshkov Repeal of Economic Decrees Viewed

954F1773A Simferopol KRYMSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by Nikolay Bobrovitsa: "Attempt at Global Destabilization of the Economic Situation: Press Conference of Deputy Prime Minister A.V. Senchenko and Prime Minister A.R. Franchuk's Statement to Journalists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Saturday 11 March, A.V. Senchenko, deputy prime minister of the Crimean Government, held a press conference for journalists where he expressed the government's viewpoint regarding the issuance by Crimean President Yu.A. Meshkov of illegitimate edicts repealing the government's economic decrees. Prime Minister A.R. Franchuk, who dropped in on the meeting with journalists, told the mass media that over the past week and a half he had received three death threats over the high-frequency government communications telephone "should he continue to lead the government as successfully." He said that he had informed the Ukrainian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] Main Administration for Crimea and the Ukrainian Security Service Main Administration in Crimea.

A.V. Senchenko informed journalists that President of Crimea Yu.A. Meshkov had recently issued several edicts "revoking" a number of government decrees on economic issues. He presented to the mass media the opinion of Crimean Minister of Justice L. Yelisseyeva-Bora, that in issuing these decrees the president has exceeded his authority in matters that are not within his

competence, are in conflict with the Crimean Constitution, and therefore, in keeping with Article 4, do not have legal force and are not to be executed.

For instance, in one of these edicts the president "revokes" the decision to sell through auction unfinished construction projects. The point is that the government, for the purpose of obtaining additional means to finance priority projects, such as the Dzhankoy-Kerch gas pipeline, a water pipeline to the southern shore of Crimea, and others, had decided to sell off some unfinished construction projects of secondary importance—such as, for instance, a Yalta cafeteria, an unfinished supermarket in Simferopol, and others—through auctions, in compliance with all the rules, with the creation of an observers council, etc. No more than 20 such projects were selected. The point was that instead of finishing them with state money and then privatizing them, they could be sold right away and thus the expense and effort of finishing them could be shifted onto private owners. Naturally, when selling something through auction, a buyer cannot be identified in advance, which precluded the possibility of abuse. Repeal of this decision would only result in economic loss for the republic.

In another document—the directive to complete the registration of enterprises in the Crimean State Property Fund, the president prescribed that banks close the accounts of enterprises that have not undertaken such registration. A.V. Senchenko said that this measure at the time of spring agricultural work, amidst the production process at industrial enterprises, could completely destabilize production and put enterprises' fate completely at the mercy of bank and Fund bureaucrats. Besides, closing an enterprise's account is an action that can be applied only on the decision of the court, since it is tantamount to closing the enterprise altogether. This could create economic chaos in the republic.

The edict "repealing" indexation of land fees was also extremely populist. The government is trying to put an end to the practice in which a hectare of land on the southern shore of Crimea is equated in terms of user fees to, for instance, a hectare of stony wasteland in Hungary. Therefore, user fees for land in Crimea are being gradually increased. Today these fees amount to only 10 percent of their real value and are quite realistic and sustainable by enterprises. The propagandistic clamor on this subject comes from the fact that not everyone understood the mechanism of calculating these fees. For instance, the Selma plant will have to pay not \$110,000 a year, as had been stated, but only \$27,000, which is quite realistic. The situation is similar with respect to other enterprises, health resorts, and organizations. Besides, the government has lifted the VAT [value-added tax] on imported goods, which also made the president unhappy, and he is trying to repeal it. However, the government in its actions is pursuing a clear line toward reforming the tax system—the government is increasing the share of resource components in the volume of taxes and reducing unjustified taxes, such as,

for instance, VAT, which has a very dubious economic nature. Today, when the Government of Ukraine has given us the right to form our own tax system, this is the direction we ought to take, the Crimean Government believes: We need to increase fees for natural resources and reduce unjustified taxes. Actually, the president also supported such reforms during the election campaign, but today he has shown himself to be a reformer only in words, not in deeds. As to private farms, which the president allegedly is protecting in this edict, this is not true, since in keeping with the law private farms are exempt from user fees altogether for three years, and this decision does not affect them.

Deputy Prime Minister A.V. Senchenko told journalists that the president has a questionable practice of issuing edicts. Being present at government meetings, members of his administration take note of the most important decree adopted by the government, and then in the administration prepare backdated edicts on the same issues, including in them points obliging the government to do what it has already done anyway, and only after that make them public, allegedly retaining a temporary lead. This is not organizational work—only a dishonest imitation of it.

Answering journalists' questions as to whether a dialogue of substance between the government and the presidential staff is possible, A.V. Senchenko said that such a dialogue would be useful and that the government is ready to conduct it, but the point is that the presidential staff never seeks the advice of specialists responsible for the area of application when issuing such "edicts," and the government receives them by mail or, even worse, learns of them from the press. The whole point, A.V. Senchenko said, is that because of their low professional level, presidential advisers are not prepared to conduct a dialogue as equals, and to many of their projects—for instance, Ilyashev's fantasies—specialists cannot react with anything but a smile. Therefore, the whole work of the presidential staff is highly secret and is being hidden from voters' eyes.

At this point Prime Minister A.R. Franchuk dropped in on the press conference, which was being held in Deputy Prime Minister A.V. Senchenko's office, and joined the conversation. He told journalists that he had informed the Ukrainian MVD Main Administration for Crimea and Ukrainian Security Service Main Administration for Crimea that he had already received three death threats through the high-frequency government communications telephone, which is only installed in the offices of a small number of high-ranking Crimean officials. The callers demanded that he stop effective management of government work, promising otherwise to get him out of the way.

He told the mass media that today the government has to work 15-16 hours a day in order to eliminate the gaps and ensure the stable functioning of industry and the spring campaign in agriculture. Teamwork has brought

people in the government closer together; much has been accomplished. The real work is only beginning, and today even the mention of replacing ministers or other members of the government would disrupt the work, because a person cannot prove himself in five or six months in such a high position. He said that to Supreme Council Chairman S.P. Tsekov's demand for Deputy Prime Minister A.V. Senchenko to resign, he replied that he does not see any grounds or any cause for this, and that he will defend all his subordinates the same way. The government in its current composition has successfully ensured a successful wintering of the national economy; it is reforming practices in industry and making an effort to increase the peninsula's wealth. Another gas condensate well is now ready to be brought on line; the Dzhan'koy-Chernomors'koye road is in the design stage, as is the Vilino-Bakhchisaray water pipeline and a water pipeline to the southern shore of Crimea; transshipment of Russian timber through Crimean ports is being organized, which will bring an additional supply of timber to our national economy; construction of a terminal in Kerch and other economic undertakings are down the line. For instance, the government is planning the construction of one more power station, for which Zaporozhye will deliver two generators, and the Ministry of Coal Industry of Russia promised to deliver certain quantities of coal. Part of it Crimea will also receive from Donbass. The government, created as the baby of this Supreme Council, has now fallen out of its favor because it has become a separate organism; because it did not choose the road of political chatter, populism, politicking, and moved away from political infighting; because, unlike the Supreme Council and presidential structures, it proved capable of engaging in concrete work, competently managing the national economy, and establishing normal interstate—instead of populist-factional—ties between Crimea, Ukraine, and Russia. And this has begun to bring a real effect. This is what those who are trying to menace specialists are afraid of today.

The government leaders said that one year of working at this pace of reform would be enough to pull the Crimean national economy out of ruin. The job of the Supreme Council and presidential structures is either to support this work, preserving stability in the region and the inflow of vacationers during the current vacation season, which will bring Crimea considerable and traditional profit in the recreation industry and other spheres of national economy; or to destabilize the situation by launching a fight between branches of authority and political score-settling, which would kill already started undertakings, cause irreparable damage to the republic, and destroy the last shreds of voter confidence. This must not happen.

Meshkov Edict on Corruption, Crime

954F1783C Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Mar 95 p 1

[Edict of the president of the Republic of Crimea: "On the Fight Against Corruption and Organized Crime in Crimea"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An increase in crimes connected with instances of corruption in the organs of state power and organized criminal activity in the sphere of the economy is being observed in Crimea. Organized crime is becoming a force dangerous to society.

In execution of the constitutional authority of the president of the Republic of Crimea as guarantor of the rights and liberties of the citizens of the Republic of Crimea and in accordance with Edict No. 133/94 of the president of the Republic of Crimea of 23 September 1994 "On the Intensification of the Fight Against Crime" and Edicts No. 396/94 and 484/94 of the president of Ukraine of 21 July 1994 "On Urgent Measures To Intensify the Fight Against Crime" and of 27 August 1994 "Questions of an Intensification of the Fight Against Corruption and Other Crimes in the Sphere of the Economy" respectively I resolve:

1. That the Government of Crimea shall:

1.1. Make addenda to the program for combating corruption and organized crime on the basis of the report of President of Ukraine L. Kuchma presented at the enlarged meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Office of the President of Ukraine for the Fight Against Corruption and Organized Crime on 30 January 1995.

1.2. Provide for the timely and full funding of the program to combat corruption and organized crime.

1.3. Decide the question of the allocation of funds for the equipment of the law enforcement authorities and the social and everyday support of their officers.

2. To entrust the control and execution of this edict to the chairman of the Coordinating Committee for the Fight Against Corruption and Organized Crime under the Government of Crimea.

3. That the leader of the Coordinating Committee for the Fight Against Corruption and Organized Crime under the Government of Crimea shall report to the president of the Republic of Crimea not less than once a month on the execution of this edict and the measures adopted operationally.

4. That this edict shall take effect the day it is signed.

[Signed] Yu. Meshkov, president of the Republic of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 10 March 1995, No. 26/95.

Decrees Appoint Crimea Presidium Members

954F1783B Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Mar 95 p 1

[Decrees of the Supreme Council of Crimea]

[FBIS Translated Text]

On the Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Nationality Policy and the Problems of Deported Citizens

In accordance with Article 58 of the law of the Republic of Crimea "On the Standing Orders of the Supreme Council of Crimea," the Supreme Council of Crimea decrees:

the election of chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Nationality Policy and the Problems of Deported Citizens Refat Abdurakhmanov Chubarov, deputy of the Supreme Council of Crimea from the Crimean Tatar Multi-Seat National Electoral District.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 9 March 1995, No. 366-1.

On the Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Credentials, Deputies' Ethics, and Organization of the Business of the Supreme Council

In accordance with Article 58 of the law of the Republic of Crimea "On the Standing Orders of the Supreme Council of Crimea," the Supreme Council of Crimea decrees:

The election as chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Credentials, Deputies' Ethics, and Organization of the Business of the Supreme Council Lennur Yagya Arifov, deputy of the Supreme Council of Crimea from the Crimean Tatar Multi-Seat National Electoral District.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 9 March 1995, No. 367-1.

On the Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Social Issues

In accordance with Article 58 of the law of the Republic of Crimea "On the Standing Orders of the Supreme Council of Crimea," the Supreme Council of Crimea decrees:

the election as chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Social Issues of Gennadiy Nikolayevich Reshetnikov, deputy of the Supreme Council of Crimea from Zuytskiy Electoral District No. 35.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 9 March 1995, No. 368-1.

On the Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Health Care and Fitness Center-Resort Treatment

In accordance with Article 58 of the law of the Republic of Crimea "On the Standing Orders of the Supreme Council of Crimea," the Supreme Council of Crimea decrees:

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the election as chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Health Care and Fitness Center-Resort Treatment of Mikhail Grigoryevich Bystrov, deputy of the Supreme Council of Crimea from Pochtovskiy Electoral District No. 33.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 9 March 1995, No. 369-1.

On the Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Local Government and the State System

In accordance with Article 58 of the law of the Republic of Crimea "On the Standing Orders of the Supreme Council of Crimea," the Supreme Council of Crimea decrees:

the election as chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Local Government and the State System of Yuriy Nikolayevich Zyryanov, deputy of the Supreme Council of Crimea from Vostochnyy Electoral District No. 27.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 9 March 1995, No. 370-1.

On the Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Economic and Budget-Financial Policy

In accordance with Article 58 of the law of the Republic of Crimea "On the Standing Orders of the Supreme Council of Crimea," the Supreme Council of Crimea decrees:

the election as chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Economic and Budget-Financial Policy of Vasiliy Aleksandrovich Shpilkin, deputy of the Supreme Council of Crimea from Oktyabrskiy Electoral District No. 41.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 9 March 1995, No. 371-1.

On the Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for the News Media and Relations With the Public

In accordance with Article 58 of the law of the Republic of Crimea "On the Standing Orders of the Supreme Council of Crimea," the Supreme Council of Crimea decrees:

the election as chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for the News Media and Relations With the Public of Vladimir Aleksandrovich Zhukov, deputy of the Supreme Council of Crimea from Internationalnyy Electoral District No. 9.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 9 March 1995, No. 372-1.

On the Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Education, Science, Culture, Youth Affairs, and Sport

In accordance with Article 58 of the law of the Republic of Crimea "On the Standing Orders of the Supreme Council of Crimea," the Supreme Council of Crimea decrees:

the election as chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Education, Science, Culture, Youth Affairs, and Sport of Yuriy Vladimirovich Podkopayev, deputy of the Supreme Council of Crimea from Budennovskiy Electoral District No. 10.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 9 March 1995, No. 373-1.

Crimean ASSR Law on State Organs Abrogated

954F1783A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Mar 95 p 1

[Law of the Republic of Crimea: "On Recognition of Law No. 119-1 of the Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic 'On the Organs of State Power of the Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic' of 10 September 1991 as Having Lapsed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea and the constitutional statute of the Republic of Crimea "On the Government of Crimea" the Supreme Council of Crimea resolves:

1. To recognize law No. 119-1 of the Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic "On the Organs of State Power of the Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic" of 10 September 1991 (VEDOMOSTI VERKHOVNOGO SOVETA KRYMA No. 2, 1991-1992, item 85) as having lapsed.

2. That the law shall take effect as of the moment it is adopted.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 2 March 1995, No 360-1.

Supreme Council Decrees Dismissing Deputies

954F1774B Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Mar 95 p 1

[Decrees of the Supreme Council of Crimea]

[FBIS Translated Text]

On No Confidence In and the Dismissal of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea

The Supreme Council of Crimea decrees:

the expression of no confidence in the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea and its dismissal.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 1 March 1995, No. 345-1.

On the Release of V.A. Balla From the Office of Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Economic and Budget-Financial Policy and From His Duties as Member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea

The Supreme Council of Crimea decrees:

the release of Vyacheslav Aleksandrovich Balla from the office of chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Economic and Budget-Financial Policy and from his duties as member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 1 March 1995, No. 348-1.

On the Release of M.A. Bakharev From the Office of Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for the News Media and Relations With the Public and From His Duties as Member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea

The Supreme Council of Crimea decrees:

the release of Mikhail Alekseyevich Bakharev from the office of chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for the News Media and Relations With the Public and from his duties as member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 1 March 1995, No. 349-1.

On the Release of A.V. Bruns From the Office of Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Ecology, the Rational Use and Conservation of Natural Resources, and Land Issues and From His Duties as Member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea

The Supreme Council of Crimea decrees:

the release of Andrey Vladimirovich Bruns from the office of chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Ecology, the Rational Use and Conservation of Natural Resources, and Land Issues and from his duties as member of Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 1 March 1995, No. 350-1.

On the Release of M.G. Bystrov From the Office of Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Health Care and Fitness Center-Resort Treatment and From His Duties as Member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea

The Supreme Council of Crimea decrees:

the release of Mikhail Grigoryevich Bystrov from the office of chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Health Care and Fitness Center-Resort Treatment and from his duties as member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 1 March 1995, No. 351-1.

On the Release of A.S. Danelyan From the Office of Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Nationality Policy and the Problems of Deported Citizens and From His Duties as Member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea

The Supreme Council of Crimea decrees:

the release of Anushavan Surenovich Danelyan from the office of chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Nationality Policy and the Problems of Deported Citizens and from his duties as member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 1 March 1995, No. 352-1.

On the Release of Yu.N. Zyryanov From the Office of Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Local Government and the State System and From His Duties as Member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea

The Supreme Council of Crimea decrees:

the release of Yuriy Nikolayevich Zyryanov from the office of chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Local Government and the State System and from his duties as member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 1 March 1995, No. 353-1.

On the Release of M.F. Kukushkin From the Office of Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Military Matters, Security, and Protection of the Rights of Servicemen and From His Duties as Member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea

The Supreme Council of Crimea decrees:

the release of Mikhail Fedorovich Kukushkin from the office of chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Military Matters, Security, and Protection of the Rights of Servicemen and from his duties as member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 1 March 1995, No. 354-1.

On the Release of P.I. Morgunov From the Office of Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Credentials, Deputies' Ethics, and Organization of the Business of the Supreme Council and From His Duties as Member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea

The Supreme Council of Crimea decrees:

the release of Petr Ivanovich Morgunov from the office of chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Credentials, Deputies' Ethics, and Organization of the Business of the Supreme Council and from his duties as member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 1 March 1995, No. 355-1.

On the Release of S.V. Nikulin From the Office of Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Constitutional Development, Legislation, and Legality and Law and Order and From His Duties as Member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea

The Supreme Council of Crimea decrees:

the release of Sergey Vladimirovich Nikulin from the office of chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Constitutional Development, Legislation, and Legality and Law and Order and from his duties as member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 1 March 1995, No. 356-1.

On the Release of Yu.V. Podkopayev From the Office of Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Education, Science, Culture, Youth Affairs, and Sport and From His Duties as Member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea

The Supreme Council of Crimea decrees:

the release of Yuriy Vladimirovich from the office of chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Education, Science, Culture, Youth Affairs, and Sport and from his duties as member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 1 March 1995, No. 357-1.

On the Release of G.N. Reshetnikov From the Office of Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Social Issues and From His Duties as Member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea

The Supreme Council of Crimea decrees:

the release of Gennadiy Nikolayevich Reshetnikov from the office of chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Social Issues and from his duties as member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 1 March 1995, No. 358-1.

On the Release of F.F. Snegirev From the Office of Chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Agrarian Issues and Food Supply and From His Duties as Member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea

The Supreme Council of Crimea decrees:

the release of Fedor Fedorovich Snegirev from the office of chairman of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Agrarian Issues and Food Supply and from his duties as member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 1 March 1995, No. 359-1.

On the Procedure of the Early Release From the Office of Chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea

The Supreme Council of Crimea decrees:

1. That the chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea may be released from office early in the instances of:

- a) his having submitted an application in writing;
- b) his improper discharge of his duties;
- c) his violation of the constitution and laws of the Republic of Crimea.

2. That upon the early release from office of the chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea the decision on this shall be adopted:

a) by way of a vote by a show of hands if the early release from office is realized in connection with the submittal of a personal application;

b) by way of a ballot in instances of his improper discharge of his duties or a violation of the constitution and laws of the Republic of Crimea.

3. That the Standing Commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea for Constitutional Development, Legislation, and Legality and Law and Order shall present the Supreme Council of Crimea with a proposal on the appropriate addenda to the law of the Republic of Crimea "On the Standing Orders of the Supreme Council of Crimea."

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol, 2 March 1995, No. 362-1.

Crimea Law on Revisions to Elections Law

954F1774A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Mar 95 p 1

[Law of the Republic of Crimea: "On Revisions and Addenda to the Law of the Republic of Crimea 'On Elections of Deputies and Chairmen of Village, Township, Rayon, City, and City Rayon Councils'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme Council of Crimea resolves:

I. To make to Law No. 311-1 of the Republic of Crimea "On Elections of Deputies and Chairmen of Village, Township, Rayon, City, and City Rayon Councils" of 18 January 1995 (the newspaper KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA of 25 January 1995 No. 14 (773)) the following revisions and addenda:

1) to supplement part four of Article 1 after the words "In the event of the nonelection of the chairman of the council in the first round" the words "(including a runoff)";

2) to replace in part 2 of Article 2 the figure "20" with the figure "18";

3) to make part 3 of Article 11 read as follows:

"3. Electoral districts shall be formed no later than eight to 10 days prior to election day by the village, township, rayon, city, and city rayon election commissions respectively with regard to the administrative-territorial division and a roughly equal size of the electorate. The deviation of the number of voters from the average district size may not exceed 15 percent";

4) to supplement part 2 of Article 14 with the sentence:

"All political parties and public organizations nominating candidates shall be entitled to equal representation in all election commissions and may be represented on them by no more than one member";

5) to supplement part 2 of Article 16 with the sentence:

"All political parties and public organizations nominating candidates shall be entitled to equal representation on all election commissions and may be represented on them by no more than one member";

6) to make paragraph 1 of part 3 of Article 24 read as follows:

"The work force of enterprises, institutions, and organizations may, regardless of forms of ownership and their structural subdivisions, nominate candidates at meetings (conferences) if the numbers of employees..." and subsequently per the text;

7) to supplement paragraph 4 of part 2 of Article 26 with the sentence:

"For the registration of candidates for deputy and candidates for the office of chairman of a rayon or city (city of republic jurisdiction) council a document confirming the candidate's payment of the cash deposit shall be appended to the said documents";

8) to make Article 32 read in the new version:

"Article 32. Release of candidates from the performance of their production or office duties to take part in an election campaign.

"Candidates for deputy of rayon, city, and city rayon councils may after registration, if they so wish, be released to hold meetings with the electorate and conduct other activities specified by this law from the performance of production or office duties without pay";

9) to supplement part 2 of Article 44 with a paragraph reading as follows:

"If no candidate has amassed the requisite number of votes, the two candidates who amassed the largest number of votes in relation to the other candidates shall take part in a runoff. In the runoff the candidate who has obtained the largest number of votes in relation to the other shall be deemed to have been elected"

in connection with this addendum to consider paragraph 2 paragraph 3;

10) in Article 46:

to delete from parts 2 and 3 the words "for deputy";

to supplement part 2 after the words "elected deputy" with the words "(chairman of the council)".

II. That this law shall take effect the moment it is published.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

City of Simferopol

10 March 1995

No. 374-1.

Demidenko Conference on Bomb Blast

954F1770A Simferopol KRYMSKAYA GAZETA in
Russian 14 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by Nikolay Bobrovitsa: "The Government Is in Real Danger: Press Conference of Deputy Prime Minister A.F. Demidenko"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol—On Sunday 12 March A.F. Demidenko, deputy prime minister of the Crimean Government, held a press conference for journalists at which he reported the details of the explosion that took place in the early morning hours of Sunday at the door to his apartment. He said that facts are falling into place providing clear proof that the Crimean Government is in real danger.

A.F. Demidenko told journalists that in the early hours of Sunday, approximately shortly after midnight, his family heard a powerful explosion. When he came out on the balcony he saw that a large group of people had gathered near the entrance. He was told that there was a dead man, killed by some sort of explosive device that went off in his hands, laying on the third floor landing at the door to his apartment. The police who arrived at the incident site discovered the body of a man about 27-30 years old by the looks of him, whose hands had been torn off by the explosion, with heavy injuries to the abdominal cavity and head. Next to him was a bag with sneakers, a towel, and bath items, and in his hands—the remnants of an explosive device, which, according to specialists, confirmed the presence of a remote-control mechanism. The dead man's identity still has not been established.

In answer to journalists' numerous questions, A.F. Demidenko said that it is too early to come up with any scenarios regarding the cause of the events, and that perhaps the investigation will find out. He completely ruled out any economic roots to this crime. His responsibility is oversight of industries in the state sector of the economy, where there is nothing to cause a bloody score-settling. He did note, however, that among them is the fuel sector, which has lately become attractive to shadow economy structures—after drugs, prostitution, and gambling—proof of which is the recent murder of the head of Krymgaz. However, no controversial issues had been involved in his actions within this line. The deputy prime minister also emphasized that neither does he see any motives for a personal vendetta, since by nature he is a very communicable person and does not have any obvious enemies.

A.F. Demidenko voiced his personal concern that this crime may represent part of a massive attack on the Crimean Government launched recently with the purpose of discrediting it and forcing its resignation, and therefore the action has a clear political coloration. The Crimean Government has done a lot during its time in

office to normalize life in the republic; it successfully organized the operation of the national economy during the fall-winter period; it achieved a breakthrough in organizing the work of enterprises; it is doing a great deal to ensure water supply for the southern shore of Crimea in the upcoming vacation season; it has declared its nonparticipation in the political squabbles on the peninsula; it has concentrated its attention on providing all the necessities for agriculture; and it is successfully resolving the problems of Crimea's interaction with economic structures of both Ukraine and Russia. This is precisely what is not to the liking of those who are striving to destabilize the situation in Crimea, who want to fish for their political fortune in muddy waters. A.F. Demidenko told journalists that the demand for his resignation, as well as that of Deputy Prime Minister A.V. Senchenko, the president's illegitimate edicts repealing the government's economic decrees, anonymous telephone calls on the government high-frequency communications line with death threats against Prime Minister A.R. Franchuk, increased demands from high rostrums to remove this objectionable government, and now this explosion are all evidence of the clear intentions of the political opponents of stability and normal life, of the political losers' criminal designs.

The deputy prime minister told journalists that the government's efforts have recently been directed toward organizing, together with the British, production and processing of gas condensate at the Delfin oil field, which will enable the republic to be self-sufficient in fuel, and at improving the utilization of Crimean ports and keeping them under state ownership, since the former government planned to privatize them. Today the Feodosiya sea port alone, even without any modernization, can earn for Crimea approximately \$1 million in profit a month on transshipment of Russian cargo. There are some, however, who even now want these ports to become private property, generating profit for private individuals instead of all Crimeans. The government cannot allow this to happen.

Answering a question regarding what might protect the current government from these unjustified attacks, A.F. Demidenko said that in his opinion, right now it should not be directly subordinate to Kiev, as many observers insist on, and that there is no need to impose a state of emergency or direct presidential rule—it is enough to declare a special situation with the purpose of giving law enforcement organs additional powers to combat crime. Since he is chairman of the coordinating committee for combating crime in the republic, A.F. Demidenko informed journalists that the government has prepared a draft law that will bring back volunteer public order squads but on the territorial rather than enterprise-based principle. At the latest meeting of the collegium under the president he sharply criticized presidential structures, which the latter did not like at all. "I said," A.F. Demidenko told journalists, "that one of the components of growing crime on the peninsula is the president

and his aides. It is with their help that less than competent people have come into parliament; second, it is with their participation that the political struggle between the branches of power had been launched, which contributes to growing crime; third, it is with their participation that the work of Crimean MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] and Security Council became disorganized and the work of all law enforcement organs is not being coordinated to the extent needed. Today, instead of concrete work on combating crime, the president only repeats what Ukrainian President L.D. Kuchma says at his own conferences, and simply moralizes when a constructive approach is needed. A.F. Demidenko said that in his opinion, two branches of authority would suffice for Crimea—a normal Supreme Council and a normal government. And today, in order to stabilize the political and economic situation, the Crimean Government has to be given the ability to build a clear administrative vertical structure: appoint heads of local city and rayon administrations in order to enforce the law and successfully implement the reforms.

Kuchma Agrarian Academy of Sciences Speech

954F1636A Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in
Ukrainian 9 Feb 95 pp 3-4

[Text of President Leonid Kuchma's Speech: "The Key Sector of the Economy. The Speech of President of Ukraine L. D. Kuchma at the Session of the General Meeting of the Academy of Agrarian Sciences on 6 February 1995"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed participants in the General Meeting of the Academy of Agrarian Sciences!

I completely agree with the point of view expressed in this hall that the agrarian sector of the economy is not merely a priority sector but the key sector in the rebirth of the national economy, the primary engine that can lead our state out of our present economic crisis, bring about stabilization, and, in the short run, raise the living standard of our people. The rebirth of Ukraine must begin in the countryside.

I also understand that there is a well-founded basis for this position. It is not only a question of our agroindustrial complex having a sufficiently high production potential even in our present circumstances, or of our country's world-renowned favorable natural and climatic conditions for growing agricultural crops. Above all, and most importantly, I have in mind the human factor in production, our human potential, our peasant who loves the land and knows how to work on the land.

I think that we are completely justified in speaking of the requisite genetic potential of our people, created over the course of many generations out of a love for the land and the ability to work on it tenaciously and productively.

All this has deep roots.

You are well aware that it was here, on the territory of our state, that as far back as four thousand years ago there already existed the first agricultural culture in Europe, known as the Trypilian culture.

Ukrainians proved their ability to work on the land everywhere that destiny took them: in Siberia and Kazakhstan, Canada and the United States, Argentina and Australia. I see graphic evidence of this when I travel abroad.

After each of the tragic events that have overtaken our peasants—serfdom and collectivization, famine and destructive wars, among which the last was especially terrible—our land-tilling people rose to its feet, restored agriculture, and fed not only itself, but other peoples as well.

We can cite the postwar years as an example.

Despite the incessant plunder of the village, the outflow of the most active young people, and the fact that the then existing system of totally state-controlled agrarian relations did not promote interest on the part of the producer in achieving the best results, in a relatively short period of time, Ukrainian agriculture reached the level of the world's leading countries in terms of agricultural output volumes.

Today, our country's economy is in a deep crisis. This crisis has also dealt ruinous blows to the agroindustrial complex.

There is no need to reexamine the causes underlying what is happening.

I presented such an analysis in the report "On the Fundamental Principles of Our Economic and Social Policy" that I submitted to the Supreme Council, and not only the parliamentarians but virtually all political forces in society agreed with it.

I also understand that today is not the time to look for those responsible for what has happened. This is mainly a task for historians.

I believe that today my main objective as president and that of society as a whole is different. What is of paramount importance to us is ensuring that all the organizational means are in place to allow us to move as quickly as possible towards our goal of overcoming what is happening in the economy, fundamentally improving the situation, and bettering the life of the people.

I am making every effort to ensure that people begin to feel even small changes for the better in their life very soon.

I would like to stress—and this is very important to me—that the scientists from the Academy of Agrarian Sciences have made an important contribution to defining the fundamental principles of the agrarian policy that is being implemented by the executive branch.

I am sincerely grateful to you for this.

Essentially, the foundation of the current policy of agrarian transformations was provided by scientists from your academy.

The Academy's leading institution—the Institute of Agrarian Economics—played a fundamental role in the development of the scientific principles underlying this policy. In recognition of this, your colleague, Petro Trokhymovych Sabluk, the director of the institute, was appointed first deputy prime minister in charge of agrarian policy.

Today I signed an edict conferring the honorary title of Honored Scientist of Ukraine on Viktor Yakovych Mesel-Veselyak and Mykola Mykolayovych Fedoriv, both associates of the Institute of Agrarian Economics.

They have been awarded this honorary title for their significant personal contribution to the development of the fundamental principles of the new agrarian policy, in particular, to the development of normative documents on questions of land reform.

I sincerely congratulate your colleagues on this high honor.

Reliance on the scientific potential of the state is and will continue to be one of the defining principles underlying the president's activity.

In conjunction with this, I would like to note the following.

There is much talk today about utilizing foreign experts to assist us in our work as consultants on various aspects of economic policy. We need such assistance. But I have always believed and continue to believe that we must rely primarily on our own sufficiently substantial scientific potential.

This is the principal guarantee that features that are peculiar to our economic development will be maximally taken into account in defining our tactics and strategy, thereby allowing us to avoid potential mistakes, against which, unfortunately—and I hope that you understand me correctly—none of us is immune.

Let us ask ourselves the following question: could foreign experts draft the necessary documents on issues pertaining to reforming land relations that involve applying forms of economic transformations that are in large measure peculiar to our circumstances?

The answer to this question is an unequivocal “no.”

I raise this issue in order to reiterate:

We must trust our own scientists more, strengthen our science in every way possible, and rely primarily on our own scientific potential.

In light of this, I instructed the Ministry of Finance not to allow cuts to be made under any circumstances in

appropriations for science in the budget for the current year despite all our difficulties. I expect the Supreme Council, which will approve the budget, to support me in this.

At the same time, we are justified in expecting greater returns from scientific institutions, especially institutions specializing in economics, and a substantial increase in the efficacy of their research.

This applies primarily to a large number of economic institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, whose work needs to be fundamentally improved from the standpoint of both organization and content.

I am prepared to do everything that is within my power to promote a fuller realization of the potential of the highly qualified collectives of these scientific institutions.

The main thing is to bring science closer to life, to the complex realities of our present circumstances, to strengthen the influence of science on practice, on the making of management decisions.

In connection with this, allow me to deal with some specific problems that we face in developing the agrarian sector of the economy, the solution of which requires that we all work together—I have in mind the executive branch, the production sector, and science.

As you well know, there are very many such problems. I will deal with only a few of them.

You are all well aware that we have embarked on the path of decisive reforms. The time for procrastination has long since passed. Marking time has already caused our society great losses. We are now forced to solve tasks which could and should have been solved at a much lower cost back in 1992 and 1993. We are some two to three years late with our reforms.

Today, in a state of deep crisis and the virtually complete financial exhaustion of our economy, it is extremely difficult to solve these tasks. But no matter what the circumstances, we are obliged to move forward and persevere to create a modern economy and strengthen the economic sovereignty and independence of our state.

We attach special importance to profoundly reforming the agrarian sector in order to institute market conditions in it. This is the only basis on which we will be able to increase productivity in this sector and, what is especially important in the open economy we are beginning to form, to ensure that our agricultural production is sufficiently competitive and economically secure.

The fact is that we have used up all the means of stimulating agricultural production from the arsenal of the old system of economic management that were the least bit effective. For the last four years, we have been trying to solve the problems of agricultural production using old methods.

Nothing came of this.

The crisis in the village continued to grow more severe. By now it has assumed a level that is not only dangerous but virtually a dead end. I believe that you understand this as well as I do.

Only one option is available to us in this situation—applying reform levers that are based on new property relations, new structures of management, new mechanisms of regulating agrarian relations.

It is a mistake to believe that we have to start working from "a clean slate."

We have important positive experience gained by individual farms in these matters.

Recently the participants of a five-oblast regional seminar on reforming agrarian relations conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food visited the Lypivka Corporation in Vinnytsya Oblast, which was headed at one time by Mykola Melnyk, the current chairman of the oblast council.

The steady growth of production volumes at this farm, its high profitability and financial self-sufficiency are explained by one fact—thoroughgoing reforms of all elements of economic activity based on principles which we are now hoping to initiate in all spheres of agrarian relations.

The same can be said of the Avanhard Collective Farm in Chernihiv Oblast, which is headed by People's Deputy of Ukraine Oleksandr Borovyk.

Similar farms are found in Odessa, Kharkiv, Dnipetrovsk, and some other oblasts.

In connection with this, the following detail is typical.

Back in 1991, the then Deputy to the Supreme Council Melnyk submitted a draft law on transforming agrarian relations into corporate relations to the Supreme Council session for consideration. But the Supreme Council rejected this legislative initiative.

I do not intend to comment on this fact. I only want to stress that what we are initiating today has a foundation. It has been achieved through the suffering of our peasantry and is irrevocable.

That is why we need to make a serious study of the experience we ourselves have accumulated and rely on this experience. And our science has an important say in this.

However, life poses and forces us to solve new problems.

We have defined the principles of reforming the basis of agrarian transformations—reforming land relations. This is the foundation of our reforms and there is no room for mistakes.

I am well aware of this and want to draw your attention once again to the need for further careful study of this problem.

Scientific studies and practical recommendations as to the valuation of land, the mechanisms of privatizing land, and the regulation of this process by the state are particularly important at this time.

The same is true with respect to the privatization of objects in the agroindustrial complex, which is beginning to take on momentum. The necessary steps are also being taken to reform agroservice services and trade.

The scientific justification, the development of the necessary methodological instruments with the help of scientists, the working out of a series of successful pilot projects, etc., are extremely important.

We have to look for effective ways to conduct a comprehensive structural reorganization of the agroindustrial complex. You are very familiar with this problem. In the West, for every person who works the land, there are seven to eight people employed in branches that service agriculture. Our ratio is essentially the reverse of this.

Many of the problems of our farms are directly the result of this disparity. And it is imperative that we find ways to solve this problem.

We are setting great hopes on introducing a new system of agricultural procurement contracts in the current year.

We know from world experience that a successful contracting system can solve a number of problems: it can achieve parity of prices of agricultural products, protect the prices and incomes of agricultural producers from inflation, and provide them with current financing.

We have already taken the first steps towards this goal—two weeks ago the agricultural commodities exchange began to function. But let us not delude ourselves. An exchange is an extremely complex mechanism that takes decades to master.

It is a well known fact that at the beginning of this century Ukraine was one of the leading European centers of commodities exchange trade in wheat, sugar, and certain other agricultural products. All this has been lost.

Today we are beginning a new page in our economic history; we are aspiring towards—and we will achieve this no matter what the circumstances are—the restoration of our state's lost status as Europe's granary. I am convinced that the system of contracted procurement of agricultural products will assist us in this.

But in this, too, it is very important for agrarian scientists, especially economists, to explain in an easily understood and simple manner the potential of the contract system in our conditions in order to help the peasants to overcome the psychological barriers that arise quite naturally in the process of establishing something new

and allow them to assume once again an active role in developing the necessary mechanisms to assure this system's effectiveness.

I rely on your help in this as well.

Life poses new problems before us on a daily basis. In particular, with respect to the organizational structure of the agroindustrial production, its specialization by zones, achieving horizontal and vertical integration. This, too, is a field of research for agrarian science.

Allow me to describe yet another very important problem.

All of us understand clearly that the fundamental restructuring of the entire system of agrarian relations that we have begun can have no future without the active participation of the state.

I consider this to be an axiom that requires no proof, and I do not accept any charges levelled against me in connection with this. Even though such charges have recently been voiced quite often from the highest tribunes.

They are groundless.

The problem boils down to something else—what kind of participation should this be? What mechanisms of state regulation are most effective in conditions in which the old ways are no longer effective and the new ways have not yet gained strength? Through which channels and from what sources should the state give financial assistance to the village? What kind of system of banking services should there be?

There are a great many such questions. I will be quite frank with you: we do not have complete answers to many of them.

Especially relevant in this connection is the problem of perfecting the management structure of the agroindustrial complex.

I want us to have a common view of the importance of this problem as well. At stake is the management of nearly one-third of our economy and more than ten sectors.

Today we are very different from what we were only half a year ago. Yet the management structure of the economy as a whole, as well as of the agroindustrial production system, has remained the same, unfortunately.

This is perhaps one of the most important contradictions in today's economy.

We have already done some things to strengthen the personnel potential of the highest echelon in the state management of the economy. This natural process of personnel replacement will continue in the future. But if

we do nothing to change the system of management itself, the effect of personnel changes will remain minimal.

I understand this very well.

However, let me reiterate: we lack sufficiently clear-cut answers to this group of question as well. And I am counting on receiving the necessary recommendations from our science.

It is very important to have scientifically and practically justified proposals regarding the structure and functions of the management bodies of the agroindustrial complex in our new conditions, regarding the system of market infrastructures in the agrarian sector, as well as concrete organizational and economic plans and solutions to these questions.

Please understand me: we are speaking of problems in which mistakes are simply inadmissible. Their cost to society is too high.

Let me touch upon the very painful problem of protecting our land.

Land is our national treasure. The degradation of agricultural lands began along with collectivization, and we cannot blame the economic crisis for this. But there is another fact: because of the crisis (a shortage of budget funds, energy sources, etc.), soil erosion has assumed an extremely dangerous scale, while the fight against erosion has virtually been reduced to zero.

This is a field in which we need extraordinary solutions.

I am familiar with the scientific research on this problem by scientists from your academy. This research is of both fundamental and practical significance. However, the organizational-legal and financial-economic aspects of applying this research have not been resolved to this day.

Yet this is of primary importance today. We have to put every scientific study into practical application. Only if we do so, will we be able to link science with practice and obtain the expected national-economic and socioeconomic results.

As a former director of a scientific-production complex, I understand this problem very well and appeal to the leaders of the scientific subdivisions and the presidium of the Academy to devote priority attention to this matter.

Now, a few words on a different subject.

Ukraine was always renowned for the high potential of her applied agrarian science. Our strains of wheat, barley, corn, sugar beets, and other crops have always been grown on millions of hectares beyond the borders of the republic. Their genetic potential is still being widely used in many countries of the world. The names of our famous agrarian scientists are known throughout the world: REMESLO, HARKAVYY, KYRYCHENKO,

EYSNER, HEDROYTS, PROKOPOVYCH, SYMYRENKO, YURYEV, TAYIROV, HZHYTSKY, and many others.

Unfortunately, the situation has now changed for the worse. I understand the difficulties that agrarian science is now experiencing: too little money, low wages, an outflow of talented youth, the lack of necessary equipment, machinery, reagents, research stations, etc.

But even in these difficult times we have to do everything possible to resume our leading place in world science. Let us remember that our famous predecessors also worked in conditions that were often no better than ours.

Let us therefore make it our goal, as I have already said, to fundamentally change the situation in agroindustrial production and not only fully provide our own people with food, but also substantially increase the state's export potential.

Let me underscore once again that I fully understand that accomplishing these tasks is impossible unless they are provided with a thorough scientific foundation.

I have instructed First Deputy Prime Minister Sabluk to draft a government decree on state support for agrarian science. We will try to mobilize to a maximum degree our financial possibilities for this purpose.

But, as they say, this is only half the matter.

The greatest stimulus to research is and always has been the process of scientific study itself, the social recognition of a scientist, and the moral support given him. You have all of this.

We will continue to support you in every way possible.

I assure you of this.

Accept my sincere wishes of success in the difficult but extremely prestigious and nationally important scientific endeavor.

I wish you strength in your creative work.

Thank you for your attention.

Economic Issues

Contract With Libya on Railroad Construction

WS2203085895 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0838
GMT 21 Mar 95

[From the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 11, 11-19 Mar 95]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In March 1995, a team of Ukrainian railroad construction experts is expected to arrive in Libya to sign a package of contracts in accordance with a February 1995 protocol of intentions,

Vladimir Buchko, an agency chief with the Ukrainian National Railroad Administration, tipped off in an interview to UKRINFORM.

The construction project will be coordinated by a mixed Ukrainian-Libyan company, which is in the process of establishment and which is supposed to include, among its co-founders, the Libyan Transport Ministry, the Center for Railroad Construction, and analogous Ukrainian institutions.

The future joint venture's statute is reported to have been drawn up and the list of involved organizations agreed upon. These include Ukrzaliznytsya [Ukrainian Railroads], Ukrbud [Ukrainian Construction], Mostobud [Bridge Construction], Ukrtransbud [Ukrainian Transport Construction], and the Ministries of Industries and Transport of Ukraine.

The railroad construction project was reportedly the brainchild of French and Hungarian specialists. It envisions construction of a 3,000 km-long railroad, of which some 2,000 km will run along the Mediterranean coast and 1,000 km will be branched off deep inside the country.

The project's tentative cost is estimated at roughly \$7.6 billion.

The Ukrainian partners' share in the future contracts may amount to 30 percent. Libyan enterprises will be involved in the construction job, as well.

Ukraine is believed to have vast experience in such projects, with Ukrainian experts having been involved in railroad construction in Syria, Mongolia, and China.

Ukraine's railroad construction potential relies on some 50 enterprises under Ukrzaliznytsya. Their aggregate capacity amounts to over 2,500 km annually of repaired railroad tracks and up to 500 km annually of newly constructed tracks.

The Mariupol-based Azovstal steel works and the Dnipropetrovsk metallurgical works can manufacture up to 7,000 km of rails per year. Six Ukrainian plants which specialize in ferroconcrete sleeper manufacturing can produce up to 3.5 million sleepers per year.

As many as 28 factories specialize in granite road metal production. Their aggregate production capacity is estimated at 14 million cubic meters of road metal per year.

The Ukrainian Power Ministry's enterprises are supposed to be able to fully meet the project's electric power transmission line requirements.

The project is supposed to involve partial purchase of the necessary construction machinery, with Ukraine possessing quite sizable fleets of bulldozers, scrapers, dump trucks, and other road construction machinery.

According to the Ukrainian Ministry of Statistics, Ukrainian construction enterprises' aggregate participation in

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construction projects abroad allowed them to earn 1,248,412 million karbovantsi in 1994, which roughly amounts to \$31 million.

Imported Oil Products Cheaper Than Russian Crude

WS2203090795 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0838
GMT 21 Mar 95

[From the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 11, 11-19 Mar 95]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] By mid-March, the majority of Ukraine's crude oil refineries had been forced to halt production for lack of raw materials.

The Ukrainian government's decision to abolish its policy of regulating crude oil prices has not produced the expected results.

The basic reasons behind the latest shortages are:

- liberalization of crude oil exports to Russia (within the framework of Ukraine's agreements with Russia and in compliance with the requirements set by the International Monetary Fund [IMF] and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD]);
- Ukraine's decision not to join the customs union which includes Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan.

In early 1995, the Russian government enacted a series of decrees which directly influenced the reduction of crude oil exports. In addition to paying other taxes, exporters of Russian crude oil are now required to pay export duties—up to 30 ECU on every tonne of crude oil exported from Russia.

As a result, the price of the Russian crude oil on the border with Ukraine has risen to \$104 per tonne. Expenses connected with paying transportation costs and compulsory taxes in Ukraine further pushed the price up to \$124 per tonne.

Meanwhile, the average world market price for a tonne of crude oil, as of mid-March, is between \$80 and \$85 per tonne.

The price of petroleum products obtained after refining the crude oil imported from Russia at Ukrainian refineries is about \$210 per tonne. Ukrainian refinery officials claim that there have been no offers of crude oil delivery, even on a give-and-take basis. The only exceptions are the Odessa and Kherson refineries, whose products (produced from give-and-take raw materials) are exported by Russian and other foreign companies through the Odessa harbor and the oil transshipment facilities available in Odessa and Kherson.

Asked to comment on the current situation, officials of the Ukrainian crude oil refining industry say that the only option open to them at present is to import petroleum products from Russia and Belarus in order to meet the demands of Ukrainian consumers. According to

them, it is cheaper to import petroleum products from Russia than to import crude oil for further refining in Ukraine. The Russian government lifted export duties on crude oil exports to Belarus after the latter agreed to join the customs union. As a result, the price of crude oil exports to Belarus is below \$70 per tonne. Transportation and refining expenses pushes the cost of petroleum products produced in Belarus (from imported Russian crude oil) to \$92 per tonne.

Prices on the Ukrainian Petroleum Products Market (in million karbovantsi per tonne)

	min	max
A-76 gasoline	25.00	31.00
AI-93 gasoline	33.00	37.00
AI-95 gasoline	35.00	44.00
Diesel fuel	22.00	28.00
M-100 oil fuel	12.50	13.50

The prices of crude oil and petroleum products on sale in early March do not reflect the current situation involving importation of Russian crude oil. That notwithstanding, the prices of these products have increased considerably as compared with the same period last year.

The prices of petroleum products are expected to increase considerably due partly to the government's decision to abolish its policy on regulating the prices of petroleum products on the internal market and partly as a result of the commencement of the sowing campaign in most regions of Ukraine.

Decree on Gas Deliveries for Business, Public

WS2203085395 Kiev VYBIR in English 0839 GMT 21
Mar 95

[Presidential decree "On Providing the National Economy and the Population of Ukraine with Natural Gas, and Payments for It in 1995" issued in Kiev on 7 February—from the "Ukraine in Documents" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In order to meet the demand of the national economy and the Ukrainian population in natural gas, and to ensure timely payment for it in 1995, I hereby resolve:

1. To assign the task of ensuring delivery of natural gas to Ukraine to the State Committee for Oil and Gas, the Oil-Refining Industry (the State Oil and Gas Committee), and to the State "Ukrresursy" Joint-Stock Company (hereinafter referred to as the "Ukrresursy" JSC).

Purchases of natural gas delivered to Ukraine under the intergovernmental and other agreements, and payments for it, are to be made by the "Ukrresursy" JSC.

Before the "Ukrresursy" JSC has concluded the contract with the Russian "Gazprom" Joint-Stock Partnership, clearings for natural gas delivered to Ukraine by the

Russian "Gazprom" Joint-Stock Partnership, are to be made by the Ukrainian "Ukrgezprom" Joint-Stock Partnership (hereinafter referred to as the "Ukrgezprom" JSP).

2. To approve the procedures for forming the natural gas resources, for their distribution, and for clearings for natural gas in Ukraine in 1995 (attached hereto).

3. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, within the term of two weeks, is to prepare its proposals concerning the introduction of the acceptance-free form of clearings for natural gas.

4. The Ministry of Finance of Ukraine are to provide, in the Draft Law on the State Budget of Ukraine for the year 1995, for the purposed utilization of funds transferred to the State Budget of Ukraine by enterprises under the State Oil and Gas Committee of Ukraine, at the rates of deductions for the geological prospecting and rent payments for oil and gas produced in Ukraine, for the services connected with gas transportation across the Ukrainian territory, and expenditures for maintenance and development of the "Ukrgezprom" JSP.

6. To recommend that the National Bank of Ukraine, jointly with the Ukrainian Inter-Bank Currency Exchange, ensure priority acquisition of hard currency by the "Ukrresursy" JSC to make settlements for natural gas, delivered to Ukraine under intergovernmental agreements.

7. The Ministry of Industry of Ukraine (A. Holubchenko), the Ministry of Machine Building, Military Industrial Complex and Defense Conversion of Ukraine (V. Petrov), and other central bodies of the state executive power, are to ensure that enterprises under their jurisdiction conclude agreements, in an obligatory first-priority manner, with the "Ukrresursy" JSC or with the organizations, authorized by it for delivery of products as settlements for natural gas delivered to Ukraine under intergovernmental agreements.

8. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Supplies of Ukraine (Yu. Karasyk), and the State Committee of Ukraine for the Food Industry (M. Kulynych) are to ensure free transfer, and dispatch to the "Ukrresursy" JSC in February through June 1995 of products purchased under the state contract in 1994, in accordance with the lists, schedules, and volumes, specified in the intergovernmental agreements.

The Ministry of Finance of Ukraine (P. Hermanchuk) is to reckon the value of the products purchased under the state contract in 1994, and which will be dispatched via the "Ukrresursy" JSC in February through June 1995, and the expenditures connected with that, toward repayment of the budget loan granted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Supplies of Ukraine and the State Committee of Ukraine for the Food Industry, with compensations from the budget subsidies for servicing the foreign debt.

9. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Supplies of Ukraine (Yu. Karasyk), and the State Committee of Ukraine for the Food Industry (M. Kulynych) are to ensure dispatch of products in 1995, purchased by the "Ukrresursy" JSC, within the limits corresponding to the intergovernmental agreements.

10. The Ministry of Economy of Ukraine (R. Shpek) and the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of Ukraine (S. Osyka), following the established procedures, are to grant quotas and licenses to the "Ukrresursy" JSC, for export of commodities, subject to quotas and licenses, and delivered under the intergovernmental agreements in 1995.

11. The Ministry of Transportation of Ukraine (O. Artemenko) is to ensure first-priority provision of the rolling stock to those enterprises and organizations which dispatch produce, according to agreements with the "Ukrresursy" JSC, as settlements for natural gas delivered under the intergovernmental agreements, without collecting additional payments for that.

12. The State Customs Committee of Ukraine (Yu. Kravchenko) is to ensure customs clearing of the products exported by the "Ukrresursy" JSC and by enterprises and organizations, authorized by it, as payment for natural gas, without the servicing bank's certificate about prepayment.

The Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of Ukraine (S. Osyka) is to introduce a simplified procedures for registration of agreements about deliveries of products delivered to the "Ukrresursy" JSC to be used as payment for natural gas, under the intergovernmental agreements.

13. The Ministry of Finance of Ukraine (P. Hermanchuk), the Ministry of Transportation of Ukraine (Yu. Artemenko), the State Customs Committee of Ukraine (Yu. Kravchenko), the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of Ukraine (S. Osyka), and the "Ukrresursy" JSC (A. Volkovskyy), are to inform the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on a monthly basis, about progress in fulfillment of the commodity deliveries and settlements for natural gas in 1995, as well as repayment of debt for natural gas, which was delivered to Ukraine from Turkmenistan in 1994.

14. The Ministry of Statistics of Ukraine (M. Borysenko), the State Customs Committee of Ukraine (Yu. Kravchenko), the "Ukrresursy" JSC (A. Volkovskyy) are to introduce, beginning from the second quarter in 1995, the quarterly form of reporting about the progress in fulfillment of intergovernmental agreements on natural gas deliveries to Ukraine.

15. Direct and indirect agreements about natural gas deliveries to Ukraine, which were concluded in fulfillment of the respective intergovernmental agreements, within the term of two weeks must be made consistent with those intergovernmental agreements.

16. Control over fulfillment of the present Decree shall be the responsibility of Vice Prime Ministers I. Mytyukov, S. Osyka, and A. Dyuba.

[Signed] President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma

[Date] Kiev, 7 February 1995; No. 109/95

Belarus

U.S. Mission Arrives To Verify START Compliance

WS2103150195 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1200 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On 19 March, a U.S. inspection group arrived in Minsk. In accordance with the Treaty on Strategic Arms Reduction Talks, the group will carry out the second inspection of a site declared upon their arrival on the territory of the Republic, under the jurisdiction of the treaty, before 21 March.

As a BELAPAN correspondent learned at the National Agency for Control and Inspections, the U.S. side chose the "Kolasava" unit of the Belarusian Armed Forces that is situated in Minsk region.

Syanko Briefs NATO State Envoys on CFE Compliance

WS2103142995 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Belarusian Foreign Minister Uladzimir Syanko has held another meeting with the ambassadors to Belarus from NATO member states. The Belarusian foreign minister emphasized that by adopting the decision to suspend the elimination of weapons—specified by the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe [CFE] Treaty—Belarus does not cast doubt on the treaty in general, but proceeds from the vital interests of its people. (Under current conditions, Belarus cannot allow the burden of expenditures to be experienced by the state alone.)

Economic Cooperation, Oil Production With Iran

LD2103182795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1718 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, Mar 21 (PIA-INTERFAX)—Belarus and Iran have signed an intergovernment Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] on economic cooperation in various fields, including oil production, the president of the Belarusian Belnefteprodukt Anton Loiko said.

Loiko said that during the Belarusian delegation's official visit to Teheran last week, under Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir, the sides discussed likely purchases of Iranian oil by Minsk and Teheran's participation in oil and gas projects together with Belarus.

Loiko said "Iran is prepared to provide Belarusian customers with oil in any amounts and even at a 10 percent discount from world price." In exchange for oil, Iran will import Belarusian farm machinery and chemical fibre. At the same time, pumping oil over such a distance would make Iranian crude "as costly as gold", Loiko said.

Belarus and Iran are reported to be considering several likely options. It is possible that Belarus would use the money received from Teheran in payment for its goods to purchase oil from Russia.

Currently, Belarus is fully dependent on energy supplies from Russia. Last year Minsk imported from Russia 11 million tonnes of crude, 14.2 billion cubic meters of natural gas, 110,000 tonnes of gasoline, 95,000 tonnes of diesel fuel and 348,000 tonnes of fuel oil.

President's Speech to Parliament Detailed

WS2103160695 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1500 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The presidential proposal of the parliament's self-dissolution that was voiced on 21 March was not a sensation. At the same time, the president holds that the Supreme Soviet should work during the current week in order to "retouch laws" and ratify the Belarusian-Russian agreements.

The president named several reasons for his suggestion about the necessity of the self-dissolution. According to the president, the first reason is the lack of correspondence of "quite a number of laws, which were passed by the parliament," including the law on the president and the law on local government and self-government, to the Constitution. Particular indignation was provoked from the president by the law on the correlation of the Supreme Soviet legislative acts, which entail juridical consequences. As known, the law conferred the Supreme Soviet resolutions the same status as laws, and made them obligatory for everyone, including the president.

Alyaksandr Lukashenka drew the parliamentarians' attention to the fact that the strained relations between the two branches of power "are sure to be reflected in the solution of important economic problems." Mr. Lukashenka associates the fact that "we have managed to come through the winter without great losses, stabilize the exchange rate of the ruble, and receive oil from Russia at prices lower than the world ones" with the "really functioning Russian-Belarusian agreements." The president said that the "subsequent stabilization of the economic situation would not be carried out at the expense of the people: Social protection will be directed toward specific groups and will be carried out through curbing prices and raising wages."

According to the president, the Cabinet of Ministers is drawing up a document, which envisages the freezing of prices and wages. The president blamed the parliament for the collapse of the anti-crisis program. He backed up his accusation by the fact that the parliament twice refused to give the president the right to apply his decrees instead of laws. In that way the parliament "took the path of impeding economic reforms." The last amendments to the tax legislation, first of all, the repeal of the 5 percent VAT on export to the CIS countries increased the budget expenditure.

According to Mr. Lukashenka, the foreign policy pursued by the president is aimed at the integration of Belarus into the world community, but with the priority of the deepening of relations with the Russian Federation, "the Russian fraternal people." Mr. Lukashenka also attaches great importance to the development of cooperation with the IMF, the EU, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the World Bank.

The president dwelt on Belarusian-Russian relations. "While this government, this president are at power, we will conduct a friendly policy as regards Russia," he said. Thanks to the Belarusian-Russian agreements, according to Lukashenka, Belarus will receive preferential credit worth 150 billion Russian rubles and cheap oil.

The president did not miss the opportunity to express his indignation with the dates of elections to the Supreme Soviet and local soviets. Fixed for 14 May, elections to the Supreme Soviet, according to him, contradict the Constitution.

"Your period in office started in March 1990. That means that the elections should have been scheduled for March 1995.... The present local soviets were elected on 4 March 1990, that is having fixed the elections to local Soviets on 11 June, the parliament violated the legislation," the president said.

The president reported that he had prepared a decree for giving all pretenders to MP seats equal chances. According to the decree, any commercial firm which, despite the current law, dares to finance a candidate will be immediately closed. The state officials who intend to run for the Supreme Soviet will be immediately discharged, if they abuse their positions during the election campaign.

Voicing his attitude towards his own decree No. 113 for dismissing the chief editor of NARODNAYA GAZETA Iosif Syaredzich, Alyaksandr Lukashenka pointed out that "Syaredzich is not the point." In the president's opinion, NARODNAYA GAZETA, the state newspaper, according to Alyaksandr Lukashenka, has no state position, but has turned into the newspaper of one well-known party and one well-known party leader. The president said that "other periodicals must also draw serious conclusions." Alyaksandr Lukashenka proposed the holding of a nationwide referendum simultaneously with elections to the Supreme Soviet on 14 May. He intends to submit a draft list of questions to the referendum for consideration of the parliament on 22 March. The president, in particular, is going to enter on the referendum ballots "questions which, according to preliminary data, will be worded in the following way: the first question—Do you agree that the Russian language should be granted the status of a state language side by side with Belarusian?; the second—Do you support the proposal for establishing a new state flag and a new state emblem?; the third—Do you support the Belarusian

president's actions that are aimed at economic integration with the Russian Federation?; the fourth—Do you agree with the necessity of introducing amendments to the Constitution, which envisage the resignation of the Supreme Soviet if it violates the Constitution?"

Moldova

Dniester Leader Warns OSCE on Provocations

MM2003165395 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 18 Mar 95 p 2

[Text of undated statement purportedly sent from Dniester Moldovan Republic President Igor Smirnov to Mr. Philippe Khan [surname as transliterated], head of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE] mission in Moldova: "Dniester Region Authorities Alarmed. Special Services Preparing Provocation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The editorial office has obtained from reliable sources the text of a statement by Dniester Moldovan Republic [DMR] President Igor Smirnov to Mr. Philippe Khan, head of the OSCE mission in Moldova. The statement stresses that the provocations against the DMR are continuing and that a seat of tension still persists here.

The DMR president reports:

Tiraspol—...The information received by us from reliable sources during January 1995 indicates that certain political groupings in the Republic of Moldova, whose sentiments have found support in the leadership of certain of its power structures and whose aim is to wreck the talks process between the Dniester Region and Moldova and again lead our peoples to the abyss of confrontation, are still strong.

The essence of the provocation being planned is that, by agreement with Lithuanian Republic special services, leaders of the Moldovan Republic Ministries of Internal Affairs [MVD] and National Security have planned an operation to capture and take to Latvia DMR Government members Major General V.G. Shevtsov, security minister, and Major General N.S. Matveyev, state counselor to the president. Moreover, a special Moldovan MVD subunit that has been trained to carry out this action has been given the following instruction: If the snatch operation fails, Shevtsov and Matveyev are to be eliminated.

In order to coordinate the operation Latvian MVD Minister Adamsons arrived in Chisinau with the members of his special subunit in early January this year on a special flight from Riga. Raimonds Rozkalns, leader of the Latvian MVD special subunit, who is carrying out measures jointly with the leaderships of the Moldovan MVD and National Security Ministry to organize a bloody provocation, is currently in Chisinau.

V.G. Shevtsov (V.Yu. Antyufeyev) and N.S. Matveyev (N.S. Goncharenko), former USSR MVD staffers,

arrived in the Dniester Region in September 1991 from Latvia, where they were serving previously. Since that time they have been persecuted by the Latvian Republic Prosecutor's Office for political reasons.

Fearing—not without justification—physical reprisals against themselves from the Latvian special services, the aforementioned people took new surnames and took out DMR citizenship.

They took an active part in defending the republic's people during the armed conflict in 1991-1992 and in organizing its law-enforcement organs in peacetime. These people made a considerable contribution to the creation of the preconditions for the maintenance of peace in the region and for starting the talks process between the Dniester Region and the Republic of Moldova.

The DMR leadership genuinely hopes that the forces that have staked on wrecking the settlement of the Dniester Region conflict by peaceful means are acting behind the back of the Republic of Moldova president and parliament. While recognizing the danger of the irresponsible, anti-people activity of high-ranking Republic of Moldova MVD and National Security Ministry officials, we must remember how the events that led to the bloody events of 1991-1992 on our soil developed.

In August Moldovan National Security Ministry and MVD staffers treacherously abducted on Ukrainian territory DMR leader Smirnov and a number of Supreme Council deputies, who were then kept in torture chambers in Chisinau for a long time. In November the same year Moldovan police abducted USSR MVD staffers who had arrived in Tiraspol from Latvia. They were taken to Chisinau, tortured, and then handed over to Latvian Republic special services.

At the end of 1991/beginning of 1992 the leaderships of the Moldovan MVD and National Security Ministry organized mass terrorist acts against Dniester Region citizens which were accompanied by murder and abduction. It should be noted that these power structures also indulged in similar activity on Gagauz territory.

Finally, in June 1992 Republic of Moldova MVD special subunits carried out a large-scale military action to annihilate the peaceful population in the city of Bendery.

All the acts listed and being planned come under the concept of state terrorism. The question arises: Is this practice compatible with these states' membership of such prestigious international organizations as the United Nations and the OSCE?

It is also surprising that one of the most active organizers of these actions—General V. Katan, Republic of Moldova deputy internal affairs minister, is the cochairman of the Joint Monitoring Commission for the Observance of Peace in the Dniester Region.

Nobody should be any doubt that these actions by the Latvian MVD and the Moldovan MVD and National Security Ministry, which are illegal and contrary to common sense and current realities, will be ruthlessly stamped out.

Realizing the full seriousness of the possible adverse consequences, which carry the risk of unpredictable harm to the achievement of a political settlement of the Dniester Region conflict, I appeal to you, as head of the OSCE mission in the Republic of Moldova, and strongly request your personal participation in preventing possible provocative acts by extremists among the Latvian and Moldovan special services officials.

[Signed] With sincere respect,

I. Smirnov, president of the Dniester Moldovan Republic

Lucinschi: Russia Should Stay Away From Dniester Elections

AU2203105295 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1912
GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, INFOTAG, 21/3/1995—Parliament Speaker Petru Lucinschi has addressed to the Chairman of the Russian State Duma, Ivan Rybkin, concerning the possible arrival of Russian parliamentarians as observers at the Dniester local elections and the referendum on the expediency of the Russian 14th Army withdrawal from the region.

In his letter, a copy of which was delivered to INFOTAG, he wrote that the vice president of self-styled Dniester Republic, Alexander Karaman, has announced about his agreement with the Agrarian and Communist Factions to send observers to Tiraspol by the end of the week.

The Moldovan Parliament Speaker requested his Russian colleague to find a possibility to react on the statement.

"I believe, the refusal of Russian deputies to take part in the Tiraspol-plotted action will promote the process of negotiating the conflict situation in Eastern Moldova, and will help implement the Army Withdrawal Agreement signed by Moldova and Russia last October", the letter reads.

Explaining the current situation, Lucinschi wrote that "the Dniester leaders did not address to international agencies to sent observers to the elections and referendum. And the OSCE Permanent Mission to Moldova has rejected their invitation to come, having stated the arrangements have been declared unlawful by Moldova".

"By seeking to misgive their reluctance to remove the Army for the people's wish, the leaders are violating the norms and standards of international practice of solving

such issues, which cannot be regarded otherwise but political adventurism", the speaker emphasized.

Russian 'Radicals' Allegedly Support Dniester Leaders

AU2203111395 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1912 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol, INFOTAG, 21/3/1995—Radical political forces in the Russian Federation are supporting Tiraspol leaders, and are planning to send observers to the local elections and referendum on the expediency of withdrawing the Russian 14th Army, reads the statement of "The Russian Path" group in the State Duma. The document was distributed in Tiraspol today.

The Dniester mass media are describing favorably the results of the last week's visit to Moscow of a Tiraspol delegation headed by Alexander Karaman, deputy president of the rebel republic. The media claim the delegation have done a good deal of work to break through the information blockade of Dniester.

Karaman himself is satisfied with the results of his visit. Speaking with your correspondent, he refuted information that the delegation had been facing problems related to the earlier statement of Colonel Mikhail Bergman, Commander of the Tiraspol Military Garrison, who had maintained that Dniester armed fighters had been infiltrating to Moscow since the beginning of March.

"One of our objectives was to refute the predetermined misinformation. And we managed to, especially after another refutation followed from the Russian Federal

Counter-Intelligence Service, and from the Security Council Secretary, Oleg Lobov", Karaman said.

The Colonel's statement about the fighters has been regarded by Karaman as "the anti-Russia activities of Bergman and of those standing behind his back".

"They are seeking to set Dniester and Russia at loggerheads, but we shall not allow that", Karaman warned.

Parliament Approves Gagauz Referendum Results

AU2203104095 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1912 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, INFOTAG, 21/3/1995—The Moldovan Parliament today approved the results of the March 5 referendum on inclusion of localities into Gagauzia.

According to the Resolution of the forum, the following towns and villages are included into Gagauzia as an integral part of the Republic of Moldova: the towns of Chadyr-Lunga, Komrat, Vulcanesti; the villages of Alexeyevka, Avdarma, Baurci, Besalma, Beshghioz, Byjak, Karbalia, Kazaklia, Chok-Maidan, Chishimkioi, Keselia Ruse, Kiriet-Lunga, Kirsova, Kongaz, Nizhni Kongazchik, Kopchak, Kotovskoie, Dezginzha, Dudulesti, Etulia, Novaia Etulia, Ferapontievka, Gaidar, Joltai, and Tomai.

The Resolution reads that the elections of the Gagauzi Bashkan (Head) and the Popular Assembly, and referendum to determine the Gagauzi capital town shall be held on May 28, 1995.

The document indicates that the local elections in the above 29 Gagauzi localities shall be held in accordance with the Moldovan legislation on April 16, 1995.

Kazakhstan

Delegation Signs Cooperation Documents in U.S.

LD2203093695 Almaty Kazakh Radio First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As has already been reported, a government delegation led by Prime Minister Akezhan Qazhygeldin is currently in the United States on an official visit. He met the U.S. trade minister Brown [title as heard], on 20 March. It was noted during the conversation that there has been a certain breakthrough in export and import relations between the two countries. Foreign trade turnover between them totalled \$136.8 million for 11 months of 1994.

On the same day the Kazakh-American committee for business development held its first meeting. As Qazhygeldin said in his speech, investment and financial cooperation in such sectors as power engineering, transport, the construction industry, the mining industry, and telecommunications were regarded as priorities in the sphere of bilateral economic relations.

As a result of the meetings, a joint declaration was signed on the future tasks of the Kazakh-American committee for business development, as were a message on plans for technical cooperation in such spheres as standardization and meteorology, a memorandum on mutual understanding between the Kazakh Ministry of Industry and Trade and the U.S. trade department on partnership in developing services in the area of exchanging market information, as well as a memorandum on a mutual understanding and cooperation between the two countries in the reconstruction and further development of Kazakhstan's oil and gas sector.

The head of the Kazakh Government also held talks with (Hamarch), the acting chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. There was a detailed exchange of views on attracting investments to Kazakhstan's economy.

Vice President: Need for Constitutional Reform

LD2103222995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2207 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty, Mar 21 (INTERFAX)—Kazakhstan's Vice-President Yerik Asanbayev believes that the current Constitution needs a reform. He said in an interview on Tuesday [21 March] that the Constitution must contain a system of checks and counter-balances for various branches of power.

"The president must have the power to dismiss parliament, and parliament, to impeach the President. The powers of executive, legislative and judicial authorities must be clearly divided", Asanbayev said.

He said that the declaration of the Supreme Soviet as illegitimate did not mean the abolition of parliament in

Kazakhstan as such. At the same time he said that the date for electing a new parliament has not been set yet.

"We must stop to analyze what has happened and to derive the necessary lessons", Asanbayev said.

Constitutional Court Official on Crisis

954F1819A Almaty KARAVAN in Russian No 12, 17 Mar 95 p 6

[Interview with Igor Rogov, deputy chairman of the Constitutional Court, by Viktor Verk and Yevgeniy Kosenko, KARAVAN correspondents; place and date not given: "Where the Law Triumphs, Rome Cannot Fall"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [KARAVAN] Igor Ivanovich, a lot of controversy is going on now about the decree of the Constitutional Court. Moreover, many are talking about the fact that, in redressing Kvyatkovskaya's complaint, you "forgot" about the complaint of Vladimir Chernyshev, who gave far more reasons for declaring the illegitimacy of parliament?

[Rogov] Actually, it was Chernyshev's complaint that we perceived in the beginning as "fatal" for the fate of parliament. But later Chernyshev removed some of the demands in the complaint, and... the country avoided a parliamentary crisis.

[KARAVAN] Suddenly, "absolutely unexpectedly," there was Kvyatkovskaya's complaint?

[Rogov] At first it seemed no surprises were expected. But the plaintiff suddenly expanded her complaint, declaring the unconstitutionality of the vote count...

[KARAVAN] You mean that it is exactly at that moment that the question of the life or death of parliament arose?

[Rogov] Rather, its illegitimacy. This was obvious to us as lawyers from the very beginning.

[KARAVAN] In that case, what precluded you from declaring parliament's illegitimacy from this very beginning?

[Rogov] The fact that as far back as the 12th convocation the Supreme Council deprived the Constitutional Court of the right to bring a complaint on its own initiative.

[KARAVAN] And you began to look calmly at the obvious violations of the Constitution?

[Rogov] From the very beginning, when the question of depriving the Constitutional Court of such a right was still being considered, we warned the Supreme Council: In that case, we will "wash" our hands and quietly observe violations of the Constitution!

[KARAVAN] This means that they did not pay any attention to your warnings, and you were content with

that. The position of the Constitutional Court is interesting. Well, fine, let us return to the situation today. Could a presidential objection have saved parliament?

[Rogov] The most serious thing in the president's objection was concern over the necessity of maintaining a stable situation in the country. But not a word was said in the president's objection about the constitutionality of cutting up the okrugs or the method of counting votes. It was the same in the speaker's objection. What does this mean? Only that it was clear from the very beginning to the lawyers of the president's apparatus (just as to their colleagues from parliament): It was senseless to dispute the unconstitutionality of the documents of the Central Election Commission on these two positions.

[KARAVAN] But why did the Constitutional Court delay the date of examination of Kvyatkovskaya's complaint, returning to it only in February (although the plaintiff submitted the complaint as early as the spring of 1994)? In this connection, the deputies (and they were not alone) frankly assumed that the Constitutional Court had become a political instrument in the hands of "certain forces." But perhaps they were simply bringing pressure on you?

[Rogov] I do not know of even one case of pressure on us, besides the pressure on the part of the deputies. As for the violation of the dates for examination of the case, this happens here practically continuously. Our critics do not consider that we collected an enormous amount of materials, that we conducted expert analysis, and, finally, that there are "material" reasons. The complexity of the case is first and foremost.

The Ministry of Finance has not financed us since the summer of last year. Money is issued in parts and only for wages. We are not even able to bind case materials or reproduce them. The chairman of the Constitutional Court pointed out the unconstitutionality of such actions. The head of state sent an appropriate directive to the prime minister, and he—to the Ministry of Finance. But just as before, there is no financing now... Incidentally, this is an answer to those who claim that someone has bought us with something.

[KARAVAN] So, the Ministry of Finance is to blame for the fact that we have had an illegitimate parliament for a whole year... An extraordinarily fitting answer to the question that has been raised. But what is to be done with the accusations of settling scores with parliament? After all, as is known, the deputies intended a long time ago to make corrections to the pertinent laws that restrict the freedom of actions of the Constitutional Court. What is more, recently intentions were expressed publicly to create a commission to check up on all your activity. It turns out, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth?

[Rogov] Such discussions are really being conducted, but they generally are absolutely unfounded. Parliament, of course, tried to introduce some changes in legislation that regulates our activity. A working group was even

established, but it did not meet one time, and it did not develop any draft. But then, what is meant by a check on the activity of the court? While talking about this, the deputies "forgot" about the equal independence of all three branches of power. Neither the parliament nor the president has a right to abrogate the decision of any court—only a higher judicial court. But the Constitutional Court is the highest judicial organ for the protection of the Constitution. So just what did the deputies intend to check up on?

It is one thing if parliament decides to check up on, for example, our financial affairs. For heaven's sake, the control chamber of the Supreme Council exists for this—no kind of commission is necessary. But if the question concerns checking up on the mechanism for carrying out justice... I do not know how my colleagues have decided, but I have firmly decided for myself: If such a checkup starts and no one intervenes (including the president—the guarantor of compliance with the Constitution), then I will retire. Because if one branch of power can with impunity interfere in the jurisdiction of another, this means that lawlessness reigns in the country!

[KARAVAN] How is the unanimous refusal of the president's objection explained, given the fact that the decree of 6 March was adopted when there were divided opinions...

[Rogov] I cannot answer this, since otherwise I would publicize a secret of a conference of the judges! I am extremely surprised by the fact that you came upon such information. I repeat, I can neither confirm nor deny it. But if we are talking in broad terms, the unconstitutionality of the documents adopted by the Central Election Commission is so obvious that it would be impossible to expect another decision from the judges. The foundation for the illegitimacy of the parliament was originally laid by the actions of the Central Election Commission. But the deputies themselves are just not to blame for anything. I do not doubt at all that many former deputies went through the preelection race honestly. It was the Central Election Commission that "tripped them up" in the first place... At the same time, the level of sense of justice among many of them is simply stupefying. After all, their 11 March introduction of changes to the Constitution and suspension of the laws on the Constitutional Court are nothing other than attempts to conceal the illegality of their election, which is obvious to everyone.

[KARAVAN] Nevertheless, as the president said, what has happened has happened. The time has come to ask the question: But what is to be done? It is already being said now that the new parliament will begin by eliminating the Constitutional Court...

[Rogov] I do not believe this. When the country pulls out of its emotional shock, all of us—the authorities and society—will understand: We must not close our eyes to any violation of the constitution. What the Central

Election Commission did has no analogues in world practice. Such an unequal cutting up of okrugs—so that one would have 16,000 voters and another 90,000—was never permitted even in our totalitarian past. Of course, it would have been better to have exposed these violations even before the elections...

[KARAVAN] Igor Ivanovich, tell me frankly, in adopting the decree of 6 March did you and your colleagues allow for the possibility that the Constitutional Court could be sacrificed for political expediency.

[Rogov] We cannot talk things over outside the conference room. Everyone makes a decision for himself. Therefore, of course, KARAVAN's prediction in the article "Will Rome Fall for the Sake of the Triumph of the Law?" created a powerful impression on us. Although I do not personally understand when they talk about the possibility of the press influencing a court decision. If a newspaper article can confuse you—you are not a judge. Of course, each of us repeatedly reflected on the question: Did we act correctly? And the longer it is, the stronger the conviction that there simply was no other way. Where the law triumphs, Rome simply cannot fall!

Constitutional Court Ruling on Objections

954F1807A *Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 16 Mar 95 p 3*

["Ruling of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the Objection of N.A. Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Objection of A.K. Kekilbayev, Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan, to the Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 6 March 1995 on the Suit of Citizen T.G. Kvyatkovskaya, 10 March 1995, City of Almaty"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan composed of Chairman M.T. Baymakhanov, Deputy Chairman I.I. Rogov, Secretary A.M. Nurmagambetov, and Justices L.I. Basharimova, K.D. Dzhalmukhanbetov, S.A. Kasimov, G.V. Kim, V.A. Malinovskiy, and S.F. Udartsev, having considered in executive session the objection of N.A. Nazarbayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the objection of A.K. Kekilbayev, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan, to the decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 6 March 1995 on the proceedings "Verification of the Constitutionality of the Decision of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 17 December 1993 'On Formation of Electoral Districts for Elections of Deputies of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan' as Regards the Formation of Abylaykhanovskiy Electoral District No. 12 of the City of Almaty; Clause 1 of Appendix 1 to Decision No. 17 of the Central Election Commission of 11 January 1994 'On Formation of Electoral Precincts for Citizens of the

Republic of Kazakhstan Overseas'; Appendix 1 to Decision No. 30 of the Central Election Commission of 27 January 1994 'On Alterations to the Forms of the Ballot Papers for Elections of Deputies of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan'; and the Letter of the Central Election Commission to District and Precinct Election Commissions 'Organization and Procedure of the Ballot and the Tallying of the Results of the Ballot for Elections of Deputies of the Supreme Council by Government Slate and the Results of Elections of Deputies of the Supreme Council by Territorial Electoral District of 7 March 1994' Adopted by Decision No. 37 of the Central Election Commission of 1 February 1994 as Regards the Procedure of the Counting of the Vote" has established:

That the Constitutional Court received on 9 March 1995 an objection from the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 8 March 1995 to the decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 6 March 1995 on the suit of citizen T.G. Kvyatkovskaya. On 9 March the court received an objection to the same decision from the chairman of the Supreme Council.

The objection of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan expresses an opinion on the baselessness of the said decision in connection with acts of the Central Election Commission not being subject to the authority of the court and with the complaints filed by citizen T.G. Kvyatkovskaya being subject to the jurisdiction of general courts.

The Constitutional Court finds insufficient grounds for satisfaction of the objection of the president. In accordance with Article 130 of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, only the Constitutional Court, not courts of general jurisdiction, is competent to render a judgment on the constitutionality or unconstitutionality of legislative instruments of the Central Election Commission.

The objection of the chairman of the Supreme Council maintains that the complaint of T.G. Kvyatkovskaya does not contain all the necessary requisites and data on the consideration of the suit by a court of general jurisdiction specified by the law and that the Constitutional Court instituted the proceedings on its own initiative and, having unjustifiably determined the plaintiff to be a party to the appeal, went beyond its competence.

The complaint of T.G. Kvyatkovskaya raised and argued claims concerning verification of the constitutionality of the practice of the application of certain articles of the Election Code and the decision of the Central Election Commission on approval of the form of ballot papers and voting rules. The plaintiff petitioned for this decision to be requested from the Central Election Commission inasmuch as this document had not been issued her. Other decisions of the Central Election Commission were included in the object of the suit later in connection with T.G. Kvyatkovskaya's widening of the complaints.

The argument of the chairman of the Supreme Council that, in accordance with Article 78 of the constitution and the edict of the president of the republic of 9 June 1993, the Central Election Commission is not on the list of authorities specified in Article 10 of the law "On the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan" would not appear convincing. The edicts of the president of the republic of 9 June 1993 "Regulation of the System of Central Executive Authorities" and "List of Central Organs of State Administration" regulate the status and organizational forms only of the central executive authorities, among which there is no mention of "departments." The relatively self-sufficient position of the "department," independent of the executive branch of power, is thereby corroborated. Pertaining to such in its characteristics, tasks, and powers, according to the Election Code and the Statute on the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan confirmed by the decree of the president of the republic of 21 December 1993, is the Central Election Commission. Subclause 4 of clause 1 of Article 10 of the law "On the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan" contains no requirement for the necessary attribution of a "department" to the organs of state administration.

The arguments to the effect that T.G. Kvyatkovskaya was not entitled to appeal to the Constitutional Court without a prior appeal for the defense of personal constitutional rights to courts of general jurisdiction are not grounded in law. Current legislation does not establish such an obligatory condition. A citizen may for the defense of his constitutional rights, if the proceedings are subject to the general jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court, appeal to this court directly.

When examining this case, the Constitutional Court, as required by the legislation governing the Constitutional Court and judicial procedure, adopted all the measures allowable by law for the comprehensive, complete, and objective ascertainment of the circumstances of the case, refraining here from the establishment and investigation of actual circumstances that are within the competence of other courts or other authorities.

The Constitutional Court's exceeding the six-month timeframe of the preparation and consideration of the case to which the chairman of the Supreme Council refers occurred for a valid reason: As a consequence of objective circumstances, the proceedings were suspended for a period of more than six months. In addition, the plaintiff repeatedly widened her claims, the last of which were filed only on 15 February 1995.

The Constitutional Court did not exceed its authority in having deemed the justice's ruling of 18 March 1994 to have lapsed in part.

The decision of the Constitutional Court does not give an official interpretation of articles of the constitution or the Election Code but a judicial interpretation, which is an inalienable component of any judicial decision. The Constitutional Court performed here the function

entrusted to it by the constitution of its judicial protection and assurance of the constitutional rights of the citizens.

The argument that the principle of the counting of the vote contained in the Election Code at the time of the elections of deputies of the Supreme Council nominated per the government slate violates the principle of "equal grounds" merits attention. But the provisions of the Election Code, including the elections of deputies by government slate, were not a part of the object of examination in this case.

Adopting the decision, the court endeavored to assure the judicial protection, supremacy, and direct operation of the provisions of the constitution and realization of the principles of a democratic state based on the rule of law and the rights and liberties of man and citizen and the safeguarding of the principles of suffrage at the time of elections to the sole legislative and supreme representative body of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Upon assuming office, justices of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan swore to conscientiously discharge the obligations entrusted to them, submitting here only to the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan and nothing and no one else.

Considering what has been stated and guided by Article 131 of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Articles 14, 25, and 26 of the law "On Constitutional Procedure in the Republic of Kazakhstan," the Constitutional Court

Rules:

1. That the objection of N.A. Nazarbayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, of 8 March 1995 to the decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 6 March 1995 on the suit of citizen T.G. Kvyatkovskaya shall be dismissed.
2. That the objection of A.K. Kekilbayev, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan, of 9 March 1995 on the decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 6 March 1995 on the suit of citizen T.G. Kvyatkovskaya shall be dismissed.
3. That it upholds the decision of the Constitutional Court of 6 March 1995 in the case "On Verification of the Constitutionality of the Decision of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 17 December 1993 'On Formation of Electoral Districts for Elections of Deputies of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan' as Regards the Formation of Abylaykhanovskiy Electoral District No. 12 of the City of Almaty; Clause 1 of Appendix 1 to Decision No. 17 of the Central Election Commission of 11 January 1994 'On Formation of Electoral Precincts for Citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan Overseas'; Appendix 1 to Decision No. 30 of the Central Election Commission of 27 January 1994 'On Alterations to the Forms of the Ballot

Papers for Elections of Deputies of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan'; the Letter of the Central Election Commission to District and Precinct Election Commissions 'On Organization and Procedure of the Ballot and the Tallying of the Results of the Ballot for Elections of Deputies of the Supreme Council by Government Slate and the Results of the Elections of Deputies of the Supreme Council by Territorial Electoral District of 7 March 1994' Adopted by Decision No. 37 of the Central Election Commission of 1 February 1994 as Regards the Procedure of the Counting of the Vote."

According to part five of Article 131 of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan and part three of Article 14 of the law "On Constitutional Procedure in the Republic of Kazakhstan," the decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan on this case shall take effect the moment it is adopted—6 March 1995.

The ruling is not subject to appeal.

[Signed] M. Baymakhanov, chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan

A. Nurmagambetov, secretary of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Edict on Organized Gatherings, Marches

954F1838A Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 95 p 1

[Edict of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan having the force of law: "On the Procedure of the Organization and Execution of Peaceful Gatherings, Meetings, Marches, Picket Lines, and Demonstrations in the Republic of Kazakhstan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with Article 1 of the law of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 10 December 1993 "On the Temporary Delegation to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Heads of the Local Administrations of Supplementary Powers" and for regulation of the procedure of the organization and execution of gatherings, meetings, marches, picket lines, and demonstrations, I issue this edict.

Article 1. A hunger strike in public places, the erection of yurts, tents, and other structures, and picketing should also be understood as forms of the expression of public, group, or personal interests and protests termed in legislation gatherings, meetings, marches, and demonstrations.

Article 2. An application to the local executive body shall be submitted for the staging of a gathering, meeting, march, picket line, or demonstration.

Applications to stage a gathering, meeting, march, picket line, or demonstration shall be submitted by the representatives of the work force, grassroots associations, or individual groups of citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan who have attained to the age of 18.

Article 3. An application to stage a gathering, meeting, march, picket line, or demonstration shall be submitted in writing no later than 10 days prior to the date that it is planned to stage it. The application shall point out the purpose, form, and location of the activity or route, the time that it will start and end, the anticipated number of participants, the last names, first names, and patronymics of the representatives (organizers) and persons responsible for the observance of public order and the place of their residence and employment (study), and the date of the submission of the application. The time of submission of the application shall be computed as of the day it is registered in the local executive body.

Article 4. The local executive body shall examine the application and communicate to the representatives (organizers) the decision that has been adopted no later than five days before the staging of the activity specified in the application. The local executive body shall, if necessary, in order to ensure the rights and liberties of other persons and public safety and also the normal operation of transport, facilities of the infrastructure, and the preservation of greenery and small architectural forms, suggest to the applicants a different time and place of the activity. The decision may be appealed in the procedure established by current legislation.

Article 5. Gatherings, meetings, marches, picket lines, and demonstrations and also the protests of their participants shall be staged in accordance with the purposes specified in the application, within a particular time-frame, and in the stipulated location.

During the execution of gatherings, meetings, marches, picket lines, or demonstrations the representatives (organizers) and also other participants shall be required to observe public order.

The organizers of and participants in the activity shall be prohibited from:

- impeding the movement of transport and pedestrians;
- creating obstacles to the uninterrupted operation of facilities of the infrastructure of the locality;
- installing yurts, tents, or other temporary structures without concordance with the local executive authorities;
- damaging greenery and small architectural forms;
- carrying bladed weapons, firearms, and other weapons and also specially prepared or adapted items that could be used against people's life and health or for causing the citizens and the property of legal entities material damage;

interfering in any form in the activity of representatives of state authorities safeguarding public order at the time of the activity.

The representatives (organizers) shall be held responsible in the procedure established by law for a breach of the provisions specified by this article.

Article 6. State authorities and grassroots associations and also the citizens shall not be entitled to prevent gatherings, meetings, marches, picket lines, or demonstrations staged in observance of the procedure established by this edict.

Article 7. The local executive body shall ban a gathering, meeting, march, picket line, or demonstration if their purpose is to incite racial, national, social, or religious intolerance, social exclusiveness, the forcible overthrow of the constitutional system, or encroachment on the territorial integrity of the republic and also the violation of other provisions of the constitution and laws and other legislative instruments of the Republic of Kazakhstan or if to stage them would be a threat to public order and the safety of the citizens.

Mass activities at facilities of rail, river, and air transport and also at organizations ensuring defense capability, the security of the state, and the activity of the populace (urban mass transit and the supply of water, power, heating, and other energy resources) shall be prohibited.

Article 8. Gatherings, meetings, marches, picket lines, or demonstrations must be terminated unconditionally at the demand of a representative of the local executive body if an application was not submitted, there was a valid banning decision, or the procedure of their execution specified by Articles 4, 5, and 7 of this edict was violated and also if a danger to the life and health of the citizens and a breach of public order have arisen.

In the event of a refusal to comply with the legitimate demands of the representative of the local executive body, the internal affairs authorities shall, as he directs, adopt the necessary measures to terminate the gathering, meeting, march, picket line, or demonstration.

Article 9. Persons who have violated the established procedure of the organization and execution of gatherings, meetings, marches, picket lines, and demonstrations shall be held responsible in accordance with legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Material damage caused during gatherings, meetings, marches, picket lines, and demonstrations by their participants to citizens, grassroots associations, or the state is to be compensated in the procedure established by law.

All expenditure that has arisen additionally, on the safeguarding of public order, the allocation of premises, sanitary cleanup, and the lighting and radio installation of the location of the gathering, meeting, march, picket line, or demonstration included, shall be compensated by their organizers.

Article 10. Local representative authorities may additionally regulate the procedure of the execution of gatherings, meetings, marches, picket lines, and demonstrations with regard to local conditions and in accordance with the requirements of this edict.

Article 11. The procedure of the organization and execution of gatherings and meetings established by this

edict shall not extend to gatherings and meetings of the work force and grassroots organizations held in accordance with legislation and their charters and statutes in private premises.

Article 12. This edict shall take effect the day it is published.

[Signed] N. Nazarbayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Almaty, 17 March 1995.

K. Suleymenov on Fight Against Crime

954F1818A Almaty KARAVAN in Russian No 12, 17 Mar 95 p 4

[Interview with Kairbek Suleymenov, state counselor of the republic in charge of problems legislation and the fight against crime, by Tatyana Katelkina; place and date not given: "The State Declares Terror on the Criminal World"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Katelkina] Kairbek Shoshanovich, you are the state counselor of the republic in charge of problems legislation and the fight against crime, so you have a better idea than anyone of the overall crime situation in the republic. Are the authorities in control of the situation?

[Suleymenov] Yes. That the measures that are being applied in the fight against crime manifestly lag behind reality is another matter. This is why the president recently signed the directive on implementation of the "Law and Order" measure. In accordance with this, police officers have been switched to barracks status. The streets will be patrolled around the clock in all localities of the republic. The courts are to provide for tours of duty by judges in the police in order to be able to promptly investigate on the spot persons detained at night time.

[Katelkina] So, what, can't we go out at night now? Might I be arrested?

[Suleymenov] No one will arrest you. We are talking only about the people whose behavior arouses the professional interest of the police.

[Katelkina] People are running into violations of the law, you know, at every step—from short weight at the market through the expropriation of one's apartment to pay off a debt, and here we have just another measure.... Are you not afraid that it will evoke no feelings in the citizens, aside from a wry smile?

[Suleymenov] Yes, the president warned about this. Unless the leadership of the ministry and the oblast administrations of internal affairs restores the people's trust within a year, its work will be given the appropriate evaluation.

[Katelkina] But this is not that simple: the word has been spoken, and people's trust emerges just like that! The

minister of internal affairs and the chief of the capital's administration were replaced, what has changed? I am judging the situation not by figures but by what is being encountered by myself, my friends, friends of my friends....

[Suleymenov] And is the attitude toward the administration chiefs, toward the deputies different? A skepticism in regard to the authorities is characteristic generally of our society today. So, what—should we sit there doing nothing? The crime situation has clearly gone beyond the limits of what is permissible, we have reached a hopeless situation, and there is nowhere left to retreat. There is a ceiling in each society, and we have reached it. It cannot get worse. It could be worse only were not the criminals but normal people to start to rob, kill, rape....

[Katelkina] What kind of resources do the authorities intend to employ in the fight against crime?

[Suleymenov] We are declaring state terror on the criminal world. Those who use weapons or attempt to do so will be shot on the spot.

[Katelkina] What, an official investigation will not be conducted into each case?

[Suleymenov] Not simply an official investigation, the prosecutor is required to institute criminal proceedings in each case.

[Katelkina] Then your boys will be firing into the air....

[Suleymenov] The president intends to make certain changes to legislation, which will permit the police officers to use weapons without warning. Yes, these are drastic measures, unfamiliar to our mentality, but they are necessary. Armed guest performers from Chechnya have shown up here, and we have information that the organization of the interaction of organized criminal groups of Kazakhstan and Russian, Uzbek, and Kyrgyz groups is beginning. The institution of eviction from Kazakhstan does not operate with us. Why, if I go to the United States or Germany without a visa, without papers, may I be arrested and sent back where I came from, while we are continually pussyfooting around? Remember how at the time of the Tajik events visitors in typical striped smocks went around people's houses, begging.... I can now confess to you that I personally instructed the deputy minister of internal affairs to detain them and send them home. We had information that these people were escaped members of mafia and clan groupings.

[Katelkina] Are you not afraid of charges of dictatorial ways?

[Suleymenov] I allow of this possibility. For the laws are not being executed with us even 50 percent. And if we start to enforce them in full, people will say, of course: Dictatorship is on its way. Officers armed with automatic weapons, who have the right to check papers and detain any suspicious person, patrol the airports in

Frankfurt-am-Main and Istanbul, and no one accuses the authorities of these countries, where the law and order situation is far more favorable, of undemocratic practices.

Traveling on our trains has become frightening—fights, stabbings, murders, total anarchy. The police officer, unarmed, poor fellow, sits in the compartment and does not show his face, he is afraid. There is a stage in West Kazakhstan on which all "shuttlers" are robbed. So why not operate in advance—not wait for complaints from the citizens (such bold spirits are a rarity, all the same) but act! Go through the cars, check papers, uncover the robbers, and put them off the train.

Changes will be made in the very near future to legislation dealing with organized crime. We are talking about the detection of the true leaders of all mafia and gangster groups, and the law enforcement authorities will have a mechanism for bringing them to book. I do not want to anticipate events—tomorrow the president will be addressing officers of the republic's law enforcement authorities and will tell them about the entirely new approaches in the fight against organized crime. It is my personal opinion that it is time to tighten the screws, but within the framework of the law and the constitution.

[Katelkina] When the vehicle of the minister of internal affairs is hijacked or the dacha of a militia chief is burgled, this speaks volumes, you will agree....

[Suleymenov] Yes, Mr. Bayekenov gave the command that this jeep be found. But it was not only a question of his vehicle—a group which had been single-mindedly stealing prestigious makes of cars had emerged. And we can understand him at the personal level—his professional pride was hurt. Both this group and several others as well were uncovered.

[Katelkina] Do you know that the city has been divided up by racketeering groupings into spheres of influence?

[Suleymenov] Yes, we have operational information to this effect. In addition, I know that some officers of the procuracy and the militia have taken upon themselves the functions of courts of arbitration—they are organizing showdowns between the debtors and creditors.

[Katelkina] Perhaps this is why the parking spaces near the MVD and the Internal Affairs Main Administration are reminiscent of pieces of Tokyo or Bonn?

[Suleymenov] I understand what you are hinting at and I shall not argue that there is corruption in the authorities, primarily in the MVD.

[Katelkina] There is talk from time to time about the legalization of shadow capital. How do you view this problem?

[Suleymenov] I have reason to doubt that we will get back in full the substantial amounts in accounts overseas. I believe, therefore, that it would be better to create

a favorable economic mechanism, let this money return here and work for the republic.

[Katelkina] In a recent interview with our newspaper the former mayor of the capital said unequivocally: The mafia runs the show in our country, and officials from the highest echelons of power are members of it.

[Suleymenov] I would not be so categorical. There is no mafia in Kazakhstan, there is organized crime. Although I, like any citizen, have questions to put to certain very important officials.

[Katelkina] And will you put these questions?

[Suleymenov] I am not a prosecutor. But I will do everything to see to it that these questions be heard....

Means To Extract, Transport Oil Explored

954F1800A *Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian* 16 Mar 95 p 2

[Article by KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA writer Aleksey Petrovskiy: "At Which Sea Should Kazakhstan's Oil Be Found?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Few people in the republic know about the Arman oil fields on the Caspian Sea coast, which is also true of the American company for prospecting and production of oil, Orix Energy, although it is one of the largest in the world. The image of such companies for rank-and-file citizens is determined by the size of the oil fields they work in our country. Of course it would be difficult for Arman to compete with Tengiz, but the conclusion by the republic government of a contract for the development of Arman with the Orix company is still far from being a commonplace incident.

Arman is located 300 kilometers to the north of Aktau, right on the Caspian shore, and its petroliferous stratum could possibly extend across the bottom of the sea. Incidentally, the concept "shore" is rather relative here. In calm weather it is in one place and in windy weather it could recede hundreds of meters.

Drillers abandoned this oil field 10 years ago. In spite of the fact that they had drilled 11 wells here, three of which could produce oil, and the preliminary reserves were estimated at 7-9 million tonnes. But how could this field be developed if it required drilling wells closer and closer to the Caspian? So the wells were mothballed until better times.

Ten years later the situation on the Caspian shore and in the republic economy had changed, but not in favor of developing Arman. The level of the sea had risen and now the wind-driven waves almost reached the three wells from which it was possible to obtain oil. As for the economy, here there was even less good news for the oil workers. Production was declining in the old fields because there were no funds for restoration work. For this reason many wells are being shut down and put out of commission, and the most necessary materials and

equipment are in short supply. At one conference the republic minister of the oil and gas industry spoke bitter words: If the situation in the branch does not change, the oil product could decrease to microscopic amounts in a couple of years.

We do not know when anything would have been done about this field were it not for the proposal from the Orix Company to finance its development. And this requires considerable amounts of money: about \$110 million. Thus another joint venture appeared in Kazakhstan in the middle of last year—Arman. From Kazakhstan's side it included the Zharkyn state holding company and the Mangistaumunaygaz joint-stock company.

It is appropriate to mention here that it was certainly no accident that this oil company from Dallas undertook the development of a field in this ecologically vulnerable region. The fact is that the active area of its work is offshore prospecting and production of oil and gas.

It is working throughout the world, including in the region of the North Sea that belongs to Great Britain, the Gulf of Mexico, and the jungles of Ecuador and Indonesia. Orix is able to produce oil in the offshore and flooded zone, in shallow water [one line illegible] produces with enough caution so that it is possible to observe all environmental protection requirements. Incidentally, this company was one of the first in the world to begin to apply the method of bioremediation whereby the bacteria naturally existing in the soil are restored to their initial condition.

The Arman joint venture intends to drill 40 wells in the field. The drillers will also explore the territory, which is periodically flooded with water from the Caspian. But they do not intend to build a pier for the drilling. All the wells are located on the three existing sites in a ring—the company is a pioneer in the use of the technology of slant drilling on an industrial scale and has gained recognition as one of the world leaders in its application. This reduces the risk of environmental pollution to zero. The wells will slant 500-700 meters away from their mouth.

I visited the Arman field recently. At that time they were repairing one of the wells that had been mothballed in the past and an American Cooper-750 drill was being used. I was impressed by the tidiness at the drilling site. Everything was set up precisely, the surface underfoot was level and strewn with yellow sand brought in from far away. It was dry, although there had been a cold rain in the Caspian region recently—the sand lets the moisture drain through.

I was surprised by the lack of trash at the site and around it. There were not even such ubiquitous and inoffensive things as cigarette wrappers and butts. And, after all, many of our compatriots are working here and they can turn any construction site into a trash heap.

I did not find any spots of oil or petroleum or solar oil near the drill or at a distance from it. There were no

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traces of the drilling mud or any kind of sludge there, although the drilling had been underway for two weeks. There are wastes here but they are carefully poured into containers and salvaged. The platform is like an island raised a meter or a meter and a half above the surface—it had to be filled in and the area was reinforced with hard rock. And above the platform of the central startup installation where the oil will go to be purified of water and gas, just in case, there is a special insert which holds back the oil. In other words the Caspian water and the coastal zone in general are reliably protected from pollution at this field.

The people I spoke with in Arman were American specialists—the general director of the joint venture, David Hager (incidentally, the management positions in the joint venture are parallel, and there is a general director from the Kazakh side as well), the manager Patrick Filan, and the chief of drilling work, Tom Claybrook. They noted that Kazakhstan's oil workers who were working them were high-level specialists. The general director of the joint venture from the Kazakh side, Kuralbek Keldzhanov, the leaders of the drilling work, Nauryzbay Makhutov and Asaf Mininnbayev, the chief of the field, Sakerbay Baymenov, the driver, Aytas Zhumashev, and others think that we should take serious lessons from our American friends with regard to organizing work efficiently, using computer equipment, skillfully providing everything necessary for the drilling work, eliminating bustle and wasted time, fighting against the so-called difficulties which used to be called the romance of it all, and creating ideal living conditions, from our point of view, of course. It is their profound conviction that the development of the field in conjunction with the Orix company provides an extremely useful opportunity to borrow this experience and learn about modern equipment, not to mention the profit promised from the subsequent sale of the oil.

And the field will be producing oil in 1997. This summer, after the fourth exploratory well is drilled, it is planned to send a test batch of oil through Atyrau and Smara to Novorossiysk. The joint venture is worried about how much it will cost to send it through the pipeline. Judging from the fact that Yuzhnefteprovod is adhering to a policy of raising the price of its services, the price could be so high that there would be no advantage to extracting the oil. And then it would be necessary to suspend the development of the fields until better times.

One hopes that this will not happen. And this is not just a matter of delaying the profit from the sale of Arman oil, which the economy needs so much. In the Caspian region, which is extremely rich in oil, Kazakhstan has at least one of the 10 largest deposits on earth, Tengiz, not to mention a multitude of medium-sized and small ones. But specialists are confident that the Caspian Sea bottom is covered with large oil reserves. And the Orix company is essentially taking the first important steps to assimilate them. If the Arman field is covered with wind-driven water from time to time, the Mertvyi Kultuk site—

which Orix has received a license to explore from the republic government—is mainly covered with shallow water and litter which is difficult to move through. And only the Almighty knows what lies hidden in the abandoned places that are so hard to get to.

One assumes that by the time it is explored the transportation problem will have been solved. Russia's monopoly on the pipelines for pumping Kazakhstan's oil to Europe, frankly, does not provide incentive for the conclusion of oil contracts between Kazakhstan and Western companies. Some will prefer to wait until times are better. This forces us to look for possibilities of building export oil pipelines from Western Kazakhstan to the external seas. One of them is to build a pipeline system through Russia to the northeastern coast of the Black Sea. It is also being suggested that the oil could pass through Armenia or Georgia and then through Turkey to the Mediterranean Sea. There are versions of the oil pipeline route that run through Iran to the Persian Gulf and also through Afghanistan to the Pakistani port in the Arabian Sea.

Each of the versions has its good points and drawbacks. But the companies are right not to wait for the appearance of an alternative oil transportation pipeline to the Black, Mediterranean, or Arabian Sea but even today to invest their money in the development of oil fields of Western Kazakhstan, as Chevron and Orix are doing. This is the best way of encouraging the appearance of a new pipeline.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Book Examines Independence, Spiritual Values

LD2103191695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1841 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Islam Karimov has written a new book, "Independence and Spiritual Values," which came out in a large edition on Monday [20 March].

Among the subjects Karimov focuses on is "the emancipation of society from the monopoly of former ideology, which, in the years of the existence of the USSR, was being forced (on Uzbekistan) from the Center, and the implanting into the minds of the masses of the new ideology of national independence."

"This notion above all means care for the future of the independence of Uzbekistan, ability to appreciate the dignity of one's own nation, readiness to give one's talent, one's entire potential, and one's life if necessary, for the sake of the future of one's country," Karimov says in the book.

He pays special attention to the role of religion in the creation of a democratic independent state. "Religions have always made a large contribution to the promotion of spiritual values and education," he says. "A just state and religion have the same roots."

The book was published in Uzbek and Russian by the Uzbekistan Publishing House.

Karimov's 'Dictatorial Regime' Denounced

AU2203101095 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 16 Mar 95 p 7

["Exclusive" interview with Shukurulla Mirsaidov, leader of the banned Uzbek opposition party Adolat, by Jan Rybar in Tashkent; date not given: "There Is a Totalitarian Regime in Uzbekistan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In 1991-1992, Shukurulla Mirsaidov was the deputy president of Uzbekistan, which has become the most authoritative regime today on the territory of the former Soviet Union. Subsequently, he was forced by President Islam Karimov to leave the post. At present, he is one of the two chairmen of the illegal Adolat (Justice) party, which unites all the Uzbek opposition forces. A LIDOVE NOVINY reporter has managed, with the help of a human rights organization, to meet with Mirsaidov, who lives under constant police surveillance, in Tashkent.

[Rybar] How would you characterize the present situation in Uzbekistan?

[Mirsaidov] There is a dictatorial totalitarian regime in Uzbekistan, which in many aspects is much worse than the former communist oppression. President Karimov relies on repression and fundamental human rights are suppressed in the country. No independent press exists; everything is censored. The opposition has been scattered; most activists from the Birlik and Erk parties have emigrated and some members have been imprisoned. Others live under permanent police surveillance. We are constantly followed, bugged, and, together with our families, subjected to pressure. Three attempts have been made on my life. Even as we speak, the secret service is certainly listening in.

[Rybar] How many prisoners of conscience are there in Uzbek prisons.

[Mirsaidov] According to our lists, at least 45. The conditions in the prisons are terrible. Moreover, no one from the outside is allowed access. Recently, a secret campaign has been intensifying against the Islamic clergy. In this context, the government, to defend its policy, frequently uses the argument that the nation is not ready for real democracy. It is a traditional symptom of the totalitarian regime.

[Rybar] What is the Adolat party's program?

[Mirsaidov] It must be emphasized that the strength of the opposition lies in its responsibility. We do not want to proceed through violating the law. That could lead to catastrophic results for society. We do not want the Tajik variant, a civil war.

Adolat demands, first of all, the democratization of society and the observance of human rights. State bodies must be elected rather than appointed, as is the case now. On the economic level, we support market reforms. At the same time, we insist on social protection for the population. What we have today is not a market economy but rather state capitalism. Of course, no one cares about the interests of the population and living standards are falling.

Our party currently has approximately 15,000 members and many supporters who are afraid to join because of fear for their families.

[Rybar] How do you think the world should help the Uzbek opposition?

[Mirsaidov] We would really appreciate help. Under no circumstances, however, should it be financial help. We need moral support. Uzbekistan has signed all the international conventions on human rights, freedom of speech and of the press. We need the world to point this out on a larger scale than hitherto. I fully understand the Czech Republic's interest in cooperation with Uzbekistan, which has tremendous natural wealth and, therefore, great economic potential. I have a hard time, however, trying to understand how it is that such a fighter for human rights as President Havel does not actively express his opinion of the dictatorial regime in our country.

Armenia

Russian Defense Minister Arrives From Georgia

LD2203101295 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1000 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Having completed his visit to Georgia, Russian Defense Minister Grachev arrived in Armenia today. He will take part in joint Russian-Armenian training exercises that will be held in southwestern regions of the republic.

New Karabakh Group Wants Legal State

NC2103134695 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 1141 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stepanakert ("LRAGIR" daily), 03/21/95—In the eve of parliament elections, a new "Democratia" ("Democracy") public organization has been created in the Republic of Mountainous Karabakh. Its goal is to make voters more active and to insure democratic elections.

"Democratia" invited representatives of various organizations, collectives, unions and political parties for dialogues. It also plans to use mass media means in order to present the positions of candidates to the public. Among the goals of the organization is to create a legal state in the RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh].

Candidate for Catholicos Makes Statement

NC2103165995 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1605 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 21/03/95 NOYAN TAPAN—On the eve of the decisive elections of Catholicos, "Marmara" Turkish daily asked Cilician Catholicos Garegin II about his mood before the elections. In response he made the following statement:

"The elections of Catholicos of All Armenians are the most important event in the life of Armenian Church and the nation. The impending elections are of an exclusive importance also because for the first time they will be held in the independent Armenia.

"In the name of rising our Church's mission it is necessary that these elections be held by means of expression the single will of the nation, remaining above local, individual and narrow opinions and approaches.

"For our motherland, independent state and Armenian people such a single expression of will should become a uniting power for strengthening the integrity of our nation and Church. It is necessary to keep high our dignity before the Armenian people, Christian Church and the whole world, to strengthen the mission of our Church, the Armenian State, for the creative and pleasing to God mission to prosper with new hopes and will in the current hard conditions, sea of hardships, great demands, and with the perspective of light hopes."

Government To Allocate Subsidies to Consumers

NC2103171095 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1108 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 21/03/95 NOYAN TAPAN—On March 16, L. Barkhudaryan, Finance Minister of the Republic of Armenia, submitted to the Parliament a state budget project for 1995. The stern financial and credit policy lead in the republic, justifies itself, said the Minister. He pointed out a three-fold decrease of the state subsidies. Moreover, from now on, the consumers, but not the producers will be provided with subsidies. As is planned, the profit of the budget will make 101.1 billion drams in 1995, of which 73.7 percent will be the profit of the republican budget, and 26.3 percent—the profit of the local budget. The expenditures will make up 130.1 billion drams, and the budget deficit—29 billion drams, which is planned to be covered from the credit of the World Bank on Reconstruction, as well as from the state credit of the Russian Federation and internal financial resources.

Azerbaijan

Background to Baku 'Mutiny' Assessed

MM2103145195 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Mar 95 p 6

[Report by Valeriy Vyzhutovich: "Mutiny To Order? Latest Attack on Authority in Azerbaijan: Background, Details, Versions"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baku—This is the fourth rebellion in the last four years. That is a lot for one republic, even for one worn out by clan rivalry, weakened by seven years of war, and with no lasting experience of a democratic handover of power.

And bloodshed once again.... At the moment it is reported that around 40 people have died and several dozen have been wounded. Accurate figures have not been officially made public and conjecture is growing in the bazaars, teashops, and street rallies that there are many more casualties.

It is already known what the upshot of the latest attempt on power in Azerbaijan was. But the background, the details, and various versions of what happened are worthy of separate attention. [passage omitted]

Doubts

First and most importantly: Were preparations indeed under way for a coup? Azerbaijan's official authorities say: yes, beyond a shadow of a doubt. They claim that, according to their information, there were four assault groups—to capture the presidential apparatus, the National Assembly, the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], and the television center. But if that is true why did OPON [Special-Purpose Police Detachment] men not disperse but take up position in a single area—at

their own base which had, in many respects, been transformed into a fortress on the eve of a siege but not into a rebel headquarters?

And another question: If the intention was to overthrow the president, why did they blow their cover in advance and run the risk of being arrested by destroying rayon establishments tens of kilometers from Baku?

According to the official story, Dzhavadov and his people were doing someone else's bidding. Whose? Without naming names, the authorities hint at Ayaz Mutalibov, Suret Guseynov, and Abulfaz Elchibey, who allegedly crave revenge. However Mutalibov and Guseynov have already issued a joint statement regarding their noninvolvement in the rebellion, which does not of course constitute an alibi, but it is nonetheless difficult to imagine more mutually unreliable plotters, virtually each of whom at one time either overthrew the other or was himself overthrown by the other.

The republic's special services are indicating that, according to their up-to-the-minute information, opposition combat detachments were scheduled to come to Dzhavadov's aid. But no Azerbaijani party is armed (apart from the People's Front, whose activists are guarding Elchibey in the village of Keleki). Moreover, representatives of 30 parties, movements, and organizations were pressing for a peaceful solution to the conflict; they offered Geydar Aliyev their mediation and were refused.

Sober minds in Baku are inclined to think that the OPON men were not planning any coup d'etat. These people were simply cornered—by the encroachment on their criminal business, the disbandment of the detachment, the tough and exacting tone that the authorities had begun, so treacherously, to use toward them for the first time.

Profitable Business

There is reason to believe that both the Azerbaijani authorities and their various opponents gained something from the tragedy that took place on the night of 16-17 March in Baku City's "kilometer eight" rayon.

Geydar Aliyev for the edification of his enemies—and also as a warning—once again demonstrated his steady survivability. And he received good cause to settle scores with his enemies even more dramatically, take even tougher action with the opposition, and be even more determined in his introduction of censorship of the press.

The democratic opposition has won the right to rain down upon the president, who permitted the bloodshed, fresh recriminations and accusations, thus highlighting their own rectitude and infallibility.

The gang of "yesterday's men" in the shape of Mutalibov, Guseynov, Elchibey, etc., may perceive what happened as a promise of fresh revolts, bringing closer the

collapse of the incumbent regime. Any instability provides them with hope. Any coup gives them a chance.

There is indeed always some political benefit to be gained from such emergencies.

....The number of people who died or were wounded during the attempt on power in Azerbaijan is still being clarified. As is the number of people arrested—at the time this issue was being signed to press the figure already stood at 360.

Motive for Azerbaijan Coup Considered

MM2103133595 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Mar 95 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Gavrilenko: "What Did Rovshan Dzhavadov Die For?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "rebellion" by the special police detachment in Azerbaijan was suppressed by force. Forecasts of a peaceful outcome to this latest clash between rebel Colonel Rovshan Dzhavadov and the authorities were not justified. The republic's president, Geydar Aliyev, who demonstrated during the events the desire to regulate the conflict through negotiations, obviously himself did not believe in that possibility. And indeed he probably did not want it, because a repetition of Dzhavadov's October pardon left the danger of new conflicts.

The rebellion cost the republic dear—36 people died. Including Rovshan Dzhavadov himself. What did the former deputy minister of internal affairs give his life for? No desire to seize power can be discerned in his actions. Even when he demanded the president's resignation he did absolutely nothing to ensure it. It is futile to try to intimidate Geydar Aliyev—previously he was not intimidated even by the armed assault on Baku by the Gyandzha colonel Suret Guseynov, who was, until recently prime minister. So what, then, happened? Most likely an attempt at an inter-tribal settling of accounts. It is hardly correct to interpret the incident as anything else, especially not as an attempted coup d'etat. That story lacks what is perhaps the main component—vigorous offensive operations by the rebels in the capital. The history of the overwhelming majority of coups d'etat attests to the opposite—they left the barracks and at least organized a din in the government quarters.

I think there was an incomprehensible and so far inexplicable attempt by some of the forces opposing Aliyev to remind him of something or prove something to him. Or to sound out his confidence in his own strength and to ascertain the distribution of forces supporting him. Rovshan Dzhavadov, stating that he intended to stand to the end, was most likely simply bluffing, counting on another "pardon" from the president. He was not known as an active politician and was most likely a tool of intimidation in the hands of some active politicians. Sooner or later we will find out whom he trusted, whose ideas he was voicing, and whose interests he paid for

with his life. One thing is clear: An uncompromising struggle is under way on the Azerbaijan political scene for the repartition of influence, property, and power. And it looks as though it is a long way from ending.

Georgia

'Heated' Meeting Held With Russian Peace Commander

LD2103173495 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Contact news agency has sent us a report from the information center for the political settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, that a meeting was held today with Lieutenant General Vasily Yakushev, commander of the Russian peacekeeping forces, at the headquarters of Georgian observers in Zugdidi. Taking part in the meeting were representatives of the government and local authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, as well as participants in a sit-in which is being staged near the Inguri bridge.

The meeting was held in a heated and tense atmosphere. Serious criticism of was levelled at the meeting toward Gen. Yakushev, the peacekeeping forces, and international observers and missions. Photographic and video evidence of attacks in Gali was presented. Gen. Yakushev said that although the Russian peacekeeping forces are performing their duties in accordance with their mandate, critical remarks should also be taken into consideration.

The sit-in of refugees from Abkhazia continues in Zugdidi. Up to 3,000 people are taking part in the protest. Refugees are demanding that a harsh assessment be given to the incidents of vandalism which have occurred in Gali, and that the role of the peacekeeping forces and international missions as security guarantors be increased. Participants in the protest had a meeting with Gen. Yakushev, Givi Lominadze, and other officials.

Tbilisi-Based Abkhaz Government Sets Peace Conditions

LD2103154895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1339 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 21 (Interfax)—Chairman of the Tbilisi-based Supreme Soviet of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic, Tamaz Nadareishvili, has said that Georgia will not put up with the loss of Abkhazia and, "if we do not manage to settle the conflict peacefully, we will act like Russia, which protects its territorial integrity".

At the news conference in Moscow Tuesday [21 March] he said that the leadership of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic will demand the withdrawal from Abkhazia of the Russian peace-keepers before the expiry date

of May 15 of their presence in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, unless they take measures to return the refugees to Abkhazia.

Nadareishvili believes that the refugees must return to Abkhazia before the end of 1995.

He said that the Georgian Prosecutor General's office intends to give sanctions soon for the arrest of chairman of the Abkhazian parliament Vladislav Ardzinba. Appointed in Tbilisi, Abkhazian Prosecutor Anzor Latsubaya told Interfax that the criminal proceedings against Ardzinba were instituted in August 1992 after the armed Georgian-Abkhazian conflict started. According to Latsubaya, the prosecutor's office has now enough evidence confirming Ardzinba's guilt in provoking the military conflict in Abkhazia. The prosecutor said that a suit must be brought against those who took part in genocide against Georgian people.

Shevardnadze on Sentencing of Gamsakhurdia Followers

LD2103181795 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Swiss Confederation to Georgia, Johann Bucher, presented his credentials to Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze in Tbilisi today. [passage omitted]

The ambassador voiced an interest in the human rights situation in Georgia, in particular, the future of two supporters of former President Gamsakhurdia's regime who have been sentenced to death.

Eduard Shevardnadze stressed that the most important thing for him as head of state was the protection of human rights, which should be a cornerstone of democracy. He said that at his initiative an amnesty for national unity had been declared, pardoning many persons for their mistakes and crimes committed in the past. Despite all the efforts, terrorist attacks had continued.

Those individuals had been convicted of a terrorist attack which had claimed the lives of several people. The head of state said that he had not interfered with the trial. Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze said that the capital punishment was unacceptable for him personally, but so long as the law still provided for such punishment, the law would be enforced.

We are engaged in an active struggle against every instance of human rights violation, said Eduard Shevardnadze. Such instances still occur, but the offenders are punished. Suffice it to say that more than 300 police officials are serving sentences for the above-mentioned offenses. However, there is more work to be done. Democracy cannot be built overnight. The main thing is that, despite the existing problems, we are strictly following the path we have chosen and building a democratic state based on law.

The Swiss ambassador thanked the head of state for a long and sincere conversation. He said that he was impressed by his position on matters of principle.

Opposition MP Reports Shot Fired at Car*LD2103144795 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1000 GMT 21 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi [no date as received]—Temur Zhorzholiani, the leader of the Georgian Conservative-Monarchist Party and member of parliament held a news conference on 21 March. He said that there had been an armed attack on him on the morning of 21 March. Zhorzholiani was driving from home to parliament when, according to him, a shot was fired at his car from a VAZ-2106 car, which had been watching him. Luckily, no one was hurt (his wife and sister were also travelling with him). Zhorzholiani blamed the attack on the head of state. According to him, he had received an offer to go into political exile in the West, but he had rejected it.

Article Profiles 'Clever' South Ossetian Leader*AU2103195395 Tbilisi THE GEORGIAN TIMES in Georgian 23 Feb-1 Mar 95 p 2*

[Tornike Liperteliani article: "A Separatist by Force: Ludvig Chibirov—(South Ossetian) Nikhas Chairman"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ludvig Aleksandre dze [son of Aleksandre] Chibirov was born in Tskhinvali in 1932. On graduating from Secondary School No. 2 in 1952, he continued his studies in the faculty of history and philology at the North Ossetian State University and graduated with honors in 1956. That same year, he became head of the history department at the South Ossetian State Museum and, three years later, a research worker at the Georgian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Academy of Sciences South Ossetian Scientific-Research Institute and, at the same time, was a postgraduate at the Georgian Academy of Sciences I. Javakhishvili Institute of History, Archaeology, and Ethnography under the guidance of Academician Giorgi Chitaia. In 1964, he defended his candidate dissertation. Between 1967 and 1974 he was dean of the department for extramural studies at the South Ossetian State Pedagogical Institute and, between 1974 and 1989, dean of the day department of history and philology. In 1978, he became a doctor of historical sciences.

From June 1989 until September 1993, he was rector of the South Ossetian State Pedagogical Institute that, during this period, was transformed into a university.

During 35 years of scientific work, he became a doctor of historical sciences and a professor and has written five monographs, more than 60 scientific works, and more than 50 scientific articles and reviews.

On 23 September 1993, at the VII [Roman seven] session of the "Republic of South Ossetia" Supreme Council, he was elected chairman of the Supreme Council (subsequently called Nikhas).

In his policy speech delivered at the time of his election to this post, he pointed out that "the Republic of South Ossetia's foreign policy would be based on future integration with North Ossetia, which would form the basis for the

historical just process of South Ossetia becoming a part of Russia." Comprehensive and close ties would be established with North Ossetia and Abkhazia. He viewed as the main problem the question of refugees both from South Ossetia and Georgia's inner regions. He emphasized that it was necessary to create normal living conditions for them and that they would be settled on the entire territory of the Republic of South Ossetia.

Ludvig Chibirov's period of political activity has not been straightforward. The heads of the power structures have been murdered and there have been fierce protests from the opposition, but he has withstood everything up to now. The principle feature of his character, namely seeking the golden mean and not publicly and provocatively voicing his own ideas and views, has played a large role in this.

The opposition, which is made up in the main of young people and headed by L. Chibirov's deputy Atsamaz Kabisov, has often accused him of making concessions to Georgia and seeking reconciliation with it. The opposition has practically no real proof of this and, if it is not retreating, this is only because it is pursuing its own cherished aim: To get rid of Chibirov and place its own leader in charge and then... no one knows how they will act. After all, L. Chibirov really does favor union with Russia and, if negotiations are being conducted with Georgia, this is only to win time and maintain peace. He also knows that his wish and that of the Ossetian population in the Tskhinvali region have no real basis. Therefore, as befits a clever politician, he is swimming with the tide.

Nevertheless, he did make such a mistake last year that nearly cost him his job. This was in June when the joint statement of the Mixed Control Commission was published. Almost none of his plans were approved by the opposition that believed that such agreements would result in South Ossetia becoming part of Georgia and when the members of the South Ossetian delegation that participated in the negotiations were sharply rebuked for having signed the joint statement, it turned out that it had apparently been signed in advance by L. Chibirov.

The opposition found something they could take advantage of and the Nikhas chairman incurred the wrath of Atsamaz Kabisov, Vyacheslav Gobizov [not further specified], and Khsar Jikaei [not further specified] at the session. They directly called for Chibirov's resignation.

However, L. Chibirov's instinct did not betray him. He delivered a long speech to parliament and was not embarrassed to apologize for his "mistake." The deputies believed him and only 11 voted in favor of his resignation whereas 46 supported him.

Finally, Znaur Gasiev, Nikhas first deputy chairman, was sacrificed on account of the "joint statement"; he resigned of his own accord and everything followed its own course.

In spite of L. Chibirov's desire to be united with North Ossetia (or Russia), one thing is clear: He will never take such a thoughtless step as that taken by Torez Kulumbekov [former chairman of South Ossetian Supreme Council] on 12 December 1990 when he declared South Ossetia a republic.

Estonia

Government Resigns; President To Nominate Premier

LD2103162895 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Estonian 1600 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In connection with the fact that the new Riigikogu has assembled, the republic's government stepped down today. From today the president has two weeks to nominate a prime ministerial candidate.

Prime Minister Andres Tarand handed in a letter of resignation to the president.

[Begin Tarand recording] The republican president, Lennart Meri: I inform you of the resignation of the republican government under Section 1, Article 92 of the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia. Allow me to hand over the document. [end recording]

The government will continue work for the time being. The republican president, Lennart Meri, replied to the prime minister by requesting as envisaged by the Constitution:

[Begin Meri recording] ...that the republican government should continue work until a new government takes their oath of office. [end recording]

The president thanked the prime minister for his good work. [passage omitted]

Tarand: Winners Failed To Cooperate

LD2103181895 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Estonian 1600 GMT 21 Mar 95

[Passages in quotation marks are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today's election of the Riigikogu board was largely influenced by yesterday's decision of the Reform Party, the Fatherland, the Estonian National Independence Party [ERSP], the Center Party, and the Moderates to merge. According to Andres Tarand, prime minister and the Moderates' leader, talks to this end began already a few days after the election results became clear.

[Unidentified reporter] What decided the matter, however, according to Andres Tarand, was the fact that the pact of the Party of Consolidation and the Rural People's Party concluded an agreement with the right-wingers.

[Tarand] "The voting became like a touchstone as to whether the so-called alternative coalition excluding Mr Vahi and forces behind him could be watertight."

[Reporter] The voting was indeed watertight but according to Andres Tarand, one cannot draw any far-reaching conclusions from the fact.

[Tarand] "At present, it is not at all clear whether today's voting demonstrates who precisely will be in the government coalition because substantial talks about policies to be implemented have not been conducted."

[Reporter] The winning electoral pact had particularly favorable conditions for holding talks, according to Andres Tarand, but according to him, they failed to take advantage of them and begin cooperation.

[Tarand] "One can say, however, that surprisingly major miscalculations were made here, in my opinion. First, the winning coalition was set up in order to win elections and evidently not for later events, which was cooperation."

[Reporter] The prime minister chose to comment on the alliances which have sprung up on both sides now as follows.

[Tarand] "What we can come up with from the Estonian parties' world outlook in their election propaganda means that we are talking about a mixed salad, so to speak, on both sides. Which of them will receive a proposal to form a government is in the hands of the president, so to speak."

Consolidation Party Seeks Coalition Alliance

LD2103145295 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the elections of the Riigikogu speaker, Tiit Vahi, chairman of the Party of Consolidation, told the press that he still does not rule out reaching an agreement with the Reform Party. He noted that the talks so far have not brought results. Vahi said that talks with the Reform Party on forming the government are to continue. Siim Kallas, chairman of the Reform Party, confirmed this today.

Tiit Vahi said he also found the beginning of talks with the Center Party appealing. So far, the KMU [Party of Consolidation and Rural People's Party election pact] has reached a coalition agreement only with the Right-Wingers [election name of Republican Conservative Party], who have five [of the 101] seats in the Riigikogu.

According to Tiit Vahi, the results of the election of Riigikogu Speaker Toomas Savi demonstrated that the expansion of the second coalition has taken place. By this, Vahi meant the Center Party, the Reform Party, the pact called the Union of Fatherland, and ERSP [Estonian National Independence Party], and the Moderates. This unofficial alliance has 49 seats in the Riigikogu. The KMU and the Right-Wingers together hold 46 seats.

'Right Wingers' Will Never Join With Center Party

WS2203092395 Tallinn BNS in English 1426 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Mar 21, BNS—The Right Wingers will never agree to become part of a

government that also includes the Center Party, Right Wingers' Chairwoman Karin Jaani told BNS on Tuesday [21 March].

But neither does the party wish to find itself in the opposition together with the Centrists, she said.

The Right Wingers, a group which seceded from the last government's senior party Pro Patria last year, concluded a coalition agreement on Saturday with the winners of the country's recent general elections, the KMU alliance.

Jaani said the party still regarded a coalition with the Coalition Party and Rural Union (KMU) alliance and the Reform Party as the best possible option.

"Although I have little trust that it will turn out that way," she said.

She ruled out the possibility that the Right Wingers could be part of a government coalition headed by Reform Party Chairman Siim Kallas and having the Centrists as one partner.

Jaani refused comment on the agreement signed by her party and the KMU on Saturday. "There's nothing to comment," she said.

Vahi Admits 'Deadlock' in Forming Cabinet

WS2203102095 Tallinn ETA in English 0822 GMT 22 Mar 95

[From 22 Mar POSTIMEES, HOMMIKULEHT, pp 2, 4; "News Bulletin" No. 59/95]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Coalition Party leader Tiit Vahi admitted yesterday that negotiations between the Coalition Party and Rural People's union (KMU) and Reform Party had reached deadlock. He noted that the talks were to continue and did not exclude the possibility of the agreement in this late stage.

Reform Party leader Siim Kallas confirmed the fact of the negotiations continuing, saying the election of Toomas Savi for the post of Riigikogu [parliament] speaker would mean the talks would now begin on a new basis. In his opinion it was too early to speak of the formation of an alternative coalition. He admitted some political powers had proposed him to stand for the Prime Minister's post and denied the claims that Reform Party did not wish to belong to the cabinet together with the Centrist Party.

Coalition Party member Mart Siimann told yesterday to the media that KMU prefers Centrist Party as a coalition partner, although the consultations were to continue with several political powers. At the yesterday's meeting the KMU MPs stressed the point that alliance between powers with greatly differing programmes would be against the voters will.

So far an agreement to cooperate exists only between the KMU and "Right Wing", which according to Vahi was

signed by himself, Arnold Ruutel and Ulo Nugis. The agreement determines the principles for foreign policy but does not mention cabinet portfolios.

"Right Wing" Chairwoman Karin Jaani declared once again yesterday that they would not take part in cabinet formation together with the Centrist Party. She also told that if the President would propose Reform Party leader Kallas to form the government and Centrist Party would be behind Kallas, they would stay out of this alternative coalition.

Chairman of the "Fatherland" and Estonian National Independence Party union [IERSP] Mart Laar denied any claims of their possible alliance with Centrist Party and said no coalition had been formed yet. He said that to be in opposition in the new parliament would be a more suitable role to the IERSP but they were not against responsibility and did not exclude partnership in a coalition with KMU if actual cooperation proposals would be presented.

LDPR Representative Asked To Leave Country

LD2203123795 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1200 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It is intended to expel Petr Rozhok, representative of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party [LDPR], from Estonia. The Citizenship and Immigration Department today served papers on Rozhok, a Russian citizen, requesting him to leave Estonia within 24 hours. Ene Rebane, the Citizenship and Immigration Department's director general, told BNS that when taking this decision they proceeded from Rozhok's actions, which may be viewed as subversive activity against Estonia's constitutional regime and territorial unity. According to Rebane, ever since 1993 Rozhok has been in actual fact attempting to prevent the full restoration of Estonian statehood. The Immigration Department finds that Rozhok's activity in Estonia may result in unforeseen consequences and cause irreparable damage in communications with foreign countries and international organizations.

Lithuania

Brazauskas Discusses Chechnya Problem

LD2103190895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1728 GMT 21 Mar 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zhrebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Algirdas Brazauskas in an interview on national radio late on Monday [20 March] said his country's recognition of Chechen independence as some opposition parties demand could be a challenge to Russia.

Brazauskas expressed renewed regret that the regional violence should be allowed to continue.

In his view, "a desire to tease Russia could bring us nothing but trouble". "I do not think any Lithuanian would like to see Vilnius in the same shape as Grozny is now", Brazauskas said.

And he asked why opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis had failed to give recognition to Chechnya during his presidency of more than two years.

Brazauskas restated commitment to a consistent and tolerant policy calling on the parliament to be more responsible in discussion of various resolutions on Chechnya and account for possible implications.

He agreed on the need of granting aid to Chechen children as opposition members appear to demand. But this, he said, must be done after the creation of a proper legislative basis and raising budget resources to this end.

Clinton Accused of 'Justifying' Chechen Assault

WS2203113195 Tallinn BNS in English 1000 GMT 22 Mar 95

[Unattributed report: "Lithuanian MP Slams Clinton Over Chechnya"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Mar 21, BNS—A Lithuanian lawmaker on Tuesday [21 March] accused U.S. President Bill Clinton of justifying Russia's aggression against Chechnya and being indifferent to the massacre of people in that Caucasian republic.

"You have forever gone down in the history of America's shame by speaking in December 1994 about the 'restoration of order' in Chechnya with a minimum amount of blood," MP Algirdas Endriukaitis said in an open letter to Clinton.

"The satiate does not sympathize with the hungry," Endriukaitis said and also accused the U.S. President of allowing Russia to quell Chechnya's 3-year-old drive for independence.

"You only see yourself, your peace and your welfare, and you ready to sacrifice the small and brave Chechen nation to a dragon, so that the Russian beast does not touch you," the letter said.

Endriukaitis coordinates the work of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian groups for parliamentary relations with Chechnya. The letter was his most explicit and harshest criticism yet of the West's reaction to the Chechnya crisis.

Parliament Rejects Aid to Chechnya Motion

WS2203110195 Vilnius ELTA in English 1758 GMT 21 Mar 95

[From "News Bulletin" No. 718]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, March 21, ELTA—Seimas [parliament] rejected on Tuesday [21 March] a

resolution on aid for Chechnya submitted by right-wing opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis.

46 Seimas members voted against the resolution, 39 supported it and 10 abstained from voting.

The draft resolution proposed that Government should demand from UN to re-establish UN Decolonisation Committee which should start considering and solving the Chechen problem.

Government was also asked to appeal to Russian Government with a request to stop military campaign in Chechnya and to withdraw the Russian army from its territory.

Those who rejected the resolution said Seimas had already made a statement on Chechnya earlier. They also added that similar statements could lead to deterioration of Lithuanian-Russian relations.

A week ago the consideration of this resolution in Seimas stirred up emotions and Seimas Deputy Chairman Juozas Bernatonis had to discontinue the session.

This move was considered as a rough violation of the Seimas Statute by the right-wing opposition.

On Tuesday just before the consideration of the resolution Vytautas Bogusis, member of social democratic faction, handed in a statement signed by 26 MPs to Seimas Chairman Ceslovas Juršenys with a request to recall Bernatonis from his post.

Baltic Defense Chiefs Discuss Air Traffic Control

LD2103180795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VILNIUS, Mar 21 (Interfax) - The Baltic states' creation of an air traffic control system depends on their financial capabilities, the commander of Lithuania's armed forces, General Jonas Andriskevicius, told a news conference on a working meeting of the Baltic commanders in Vilnius Tuesday [21 March].

Andriskevicius remarked that the meeting had agreed on the regulations on the system to be eventually submitted for consideration by the Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian governments. However, he declined to comment on any specific results of the talks on the issue.

The Estonian armed forces commander, General Aleksandr Einseln, emphasized that the Baltic states' joint efforts in the field should take into account the possibility of "integrating the Baltic air traffic control system into the NATO one." U.S. Vice President Al Gore had put forward the proposal during his visit to Tallinn on March 13.

According to the participants of the news conference, the meeting also touched on the situation in the Baltic armed forces, their involvement in NATO-sponsored program Partnership for Peace and creation of a Baltic peace-keeping battalion.

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